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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT

Thursday, 15 June 2017

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THURSDAY, 15 JUNE 2017



The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

Mr Speaker (Hon. Peter Wellington, Nicklin) read prayers and took the chair.

PRIVILEGE

Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House by a Member



Hon. WS BYRNE (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Economic Development) (9.31 am): I rise on a matter of privilege arising from a private member's statement by the member for Nanango yesterday. During her speech, the member stated that there was no funding for the south Rockhampton levee. Page 61 of Budget Paper No. 2 states—

The Queensland Government will contribute \$110 million towards a proposed joint \$220 million funding package under the Commonwealth and State-funded NDRRA Category D following STC Debbie.

This funding package is contingent on approval of the Commonwealth—

Mr SEENEY: I rise to a point of order. In no way is this a matter of privilege. It is a matter of debate and the minister will have plenty of opportunity to debate the matter, both here and at the estimates hearings.

Mr SPEAKER: The question is whether the minister is of the view that there has been a misleading of the House.

Mr BYRNE: I can only deduce that the member for Nanango did not read the budget papers. Mr Speaker, I will not be writing to you at this stage, as I will give the member for Nanango the opportunity to correct the record.

PRIVILEGE

Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House by Members



Mr HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (9.32 am): On Tuesday during question time, the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition directed questions without notice to the Premier that made assertions about the conduct of the member for Pumicestone that were untrue and misleading. By tabling documents at the time of asking the questions, the members implied that the documents substantiated those assertions. A review of the documents and the personal explanation that the member for Pumicestone made yesterday make it clear that the documents do nothing of the sort. In fact, the documents are evidence that support the case that the assertions were untrue and misleading to the parliament.

As 24 hours have elapsed since the member for Pumicestone's personal explanation without a withdrawal or apology from the members for Clayfield and Nanango, Mr Speaker, I advise the House that I will be writing to you asking that you refer those members to the Ethics Committee for consideration of whether they, in breach of standing order 266, have committed the contempt of deliberately misleading the parliament.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

International Cleaners Day



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I advise that today is International Cleaners Day. I use this opportunity to acknowledge our small team of dedicated cleaners who work throughout the year cleaning our parliament. Our cleaners are here early in the morning and late in the evening, and their work is very much appreciated by all. Thank you, cleaners, for the great work that you do. We will have a small ceremony later today.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

Conduct in the Chamber

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, standing order 244 provides for conduct in the chamber. Order 244(5) states—

Once members have entered the Chamber they must take their seats and not stand in any of the passages or gangways.

Yesterday the Leader of Opposition Business complained about the senior government whip, the member for Logan, loitering in the gangway in front of the media camera when the Leader of the Opposition was making a private member's statement.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I do not need your assistance, member for Kawana.

Mr Bleijie: I did not say anything.

Mr SPEAKER: Someone in that part of the chamber did. I am intentionally not looking at the member for Hinchinbrook, but I think the member for Everton has a statement to make later today.

The member for Logan later explained to the House that his actions were inadvertent and not deliberate. He advised that he had been simply waiting to speak to the Leader of the House. I have accepted the member for Logan's explanation and will not be taking any further action. However, I ask all members to familiarise themselves with standing order 244, which provides various rules of etiquette in the House.

MINISTERIAL PAPER

Elections and Referendum Review, Independent Panel Report

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (9.37 am), by leave, without notice: I table the Independent Panel's report titled *Inquiry report—a review of the conduct of the 2016 local government elections, the referendum and the Toowoomba South by-election*.

Tabled paper: Inquiry report—A review of the conduct of the 2016 local government elections, the referendum and the Toowoomba South by-election [Published by order of the House] [\[984\]](#).

MOTION

Elections and Referendum Review, Independent Panel Report

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (9.37 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, in accordance with standing order 33(2), the House order the report to be published.

Sound electoral processes are vital to our democracy. It is important that Queenslanders have confidence in those processes and that any concerns are rigorously investigated. That is why last year the Palaszczuk government launched an independent review of the referendum on four-year terms and local government elections in March 2016 and the Toowoomba South by-election in July 2016. I take this opportunity to thank the review panel members, Jim Soorley, Wayne Kratzmann and Pam Parker, for their thorough investigation. This morning I have tabled the panel report. In addition, I table the Electoral Commission of Queensland's response and also the government's response to the report.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 10 May 2017, from Electoral Commissioner, Mr Walter van der Merwe, to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Training and Skills, Hon. Yvette D'Ath, regarding response to the Inquiry report [\[985\]](#).

Tabled paper: Inquiry report—A review of the conduct of the 2016 local government elections, the referendum and the Toowoomba South by-election, government response [\[986\]](#).

The report has identified challenges in the conduct of both the elections and referendum in terms of technology, communication, the postal voting system, the roles and management of returning officers and other staff, staffing numbers, the training of staff and the organisation of the ballot process on the ground.

The review panel note that most of their 74 recommendations for action relate to operational matters and the authors urge the ECQ to act urgently on those recommendations. As an independent statutory authority charged with the vital task of impartially conducting Queensland elections, it is right that the ECQ addresses these specific concerns. The commissioner's response indicates that the ECQ

either supports or agrees to consider most of the recommendations ahead of the 2020 local government elections. The commissioner also indicates that recommendations around staff training are already underway.

I have written to the commissioner asking him to report back regularly on the progress of the implementation of these recommendations. As some recommendations of the report are of a policy and legislative nature, I have also tabled the government's response. In addition to a number of policy areas that would require broad consultation prior to any final decisions being made, a future Labor government also commits to undertaking an assessment of all early voting processes to ensure that our electoral system meets the expectations of the community in ensuring accessibility in a modern era. Any reforms to early voting, including postal and prepoll voting, will be undertaken in consultation with stakeholders and the broader community and would apply to the inaugural state election for a four-year fixed parliamentary term in addition to the next local government elections set for 2020. We will also consider permanent dates for local government elections and retaining the current optional preferential voting system for local governments, at least until after the next election.

These issues go to the heart of a fair and free democracy and, as such, are taken very seriously by the Palaszczuk government, which is demonstrably committed to openness and transparency. I look forward to further discussion of the issues identified in this report to ensure that our democratic electoral system is one of best practice and ensures the integrity of a strong and robust voting system that maintains public confidence in the full knowledge we are committed to ensuring that democracy is well served.

 **Mr WALKER** (Mansfield—LNP) (9.41 am): We will be supporting the motion that the report be published. It is a long overdue report. The Attorney-General announced this investigation at estimates last year. It was an inquiry that was going to take three months. At the end of that three months the commissioners had not even been appointed. That has now been done. The report, although long overdue, will be welcome and the opposition will read it with interest.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Education, Prep Teacher Aides

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.42 am): My government knows the importance of a good education to getting a job and having a rewarding life. This week's state budget allocated a record \$13.7 billion for education and training, which is an increase of 6.4 per cent on last year. My government is committed to ensuring that Queensland children have the best chance of education. We are upgrading classrooms and building new schools. We are also ensuring that we have more teachers for those classrooms.

I am proud to say that there are more classroom teachers, specialist teachers, teacher aides and additional guidance officers throughout Queensland. Well done, Minister for Education! Since March 2015 my government has employed 3,500 extra teachers and teacher aides. We will continue our \$152.4 million investment to deliver our extra teachers commitment of up to 875 extra teachers above growth over three years. We will also have 230 more teachers in 2018 and 2019 to ensure that the first smaller cohort of prep year students are not disadvantaged in subject choices as they complete their senior years of school.

I can announce today that through this year's budget we are investing \$24.8 million over four years to provide an extra 4,000 teacher aide hours per week to allow us to provide a teacher aide for every prep class for the first time. We know that prep teacher aides play a vital role in helping children develop the basic skills they need for learning and interacting with others at school. In 2017, almost 600 schools received supplementary resourcing for prep teacher aides. From 2018 this allocation of more than 100 additional full-time-equivalent teacher aides will ensure that prep teachers in our state schools can be supported by a dedicated teacher aide. An additional 4,000 hours per week will ensure all schools in the state can provide up to 25 hours of teacher aide time per week in prep classes.

Participation in prep improves a child's educational outcomes and is a critical foundation year for schooling. That is why my government legislated to ensure that all Queensland students benefit from a full-time prep year before starting year 1.

Governing from the Regions

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.44 am): My government governs for all of Queensland. We are working for all Queenslanders to create jobs and deliver services. The budget this week is a record commitment to jobs and a record investment in key services like health and education. My ministers are actively working with Queenslanders, businesses, community groups and councils to create as many jobs and opportunities as possible. To do so, my government makes sure that we have direct contact with Queenslanders in their communities.

Today I can announce that the government will meet in Cairns and Far North Queensland from 10 to 15 July, and on the Gold Coast we will govern from 31 July to 4 August. We had proposed governing from the Gold Coast earlier this year, but that was postponed due to Tropical Cyclone Debbie which led to severe flooding on the Gold Coast. Our Governing from the Regions approach ensures that my government continues to work with Queenslanders to address local issues and seize upon local opportunities. Rather than our previous two-day community cabinet meetings, Governing from the Regions is for a full week and provides more opportunities for ministers to meet with local stakeholders. Governing from Central Queensland in Rockhampton, Yeppoon and Gladstone earlier this year was very successful.

Issues raised with my ministers and me during this visit have been addressed in this budget and include: a further \$200 million round for Works for Queensland for regional local government projects; four Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol officers for Gladstone; and a great commitment of \$2 million for the Rockhampton Art Gallery, which I know the member for Rockhampton and the member for Keppel are very happy about. In relation to the Rockhampton regional art gallery proposal, Rockhampton has one of the largest collections of Australian artworks in the world and it is about time we put them on display for all of Australia to see. My government has made significant commitments to jobs, infrastructure and services in the Far North and Gold Coast regions in this budget.

London, Fire; Fire Safety

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.46 am): It is too early to speculate about the cause of the tragic fire in Grenfell Tower in London. Our thoughts are with the victims and their families.

As a government we are determined to protect Queenslanders with robust smoke alarm laws through safety regulations and the regular inspection of high-rise buildings. We have introduced one of the most robust smoke alarm regimes in the world. Queensland Fire and Emergency Services does extensive high-risk training to attack fires, both internally and externally, and has just finished four major high-rise exercises in the Brisbane CBD. Our academy at Whyte Island provides firefighters with the best simulations and facilities in Australia for high-rise fire and rescue training, but I know that all members of this House are really feeling the impact of that fire in London.

London, Fire; Works for Queensland

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (9.47 am): I join with the Premier in reflecting on the tragedy that has occurred in the United Kingdom and hope for all the best in terms of the investigation and changes to laws going forward.

Regional Queensland will get another \$200 million economic shot in the arm over the next two years with the second round of the Palaszczuk government's groundbreaking job-creating Works for Queensland program. Added to the \$200 million which is already making a difference to local governments, communities and families, that is a total of \$400 million through the Works for Queensland program which has been allocated to the 65 regional councils outside of South-East Queensland. For families across the state it means job creation and extra amenities such as park upgrades and playgrounds. For our councils, it means being able to deliver important maintenance and minor infrastructure works for their communities. It is little wonder that mayors across the state embraced the program when it was rolled out earlier this year. They have written to me and the Premier urging that it continue, and that is exactly what this government has delivered in the budget.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Ms TRAD: Mr Speaker, that interjection from the member for Nanango just proves the fact that they do not care about regional Queensland. They do not care about spending in regional Queensland.

Mr SPEAKER: Before the Deputy Premier continues, can I just warn the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. You have had a pretty good go this morning with your interjections. I find that many of those have been designed to disrupt the speakers. We have only had two speakers: the Premier and Deputy Premier. I would urge you not to persist.

Ms TRAD: The \$200 million that is currently being spent throughout regional Queensland is continuing to have a positive impact in regional economies. As at the end of May, Works for Queensland has already created, sustained or supported 2,291 jobs. That is 2,291 people working in regional Queensland. The member for Nanango just cannot help herself. Maybe she should listen to what a great program is doing for regional economies right throughout Queensland.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, I would ask you to come back to your statement, please.

Ms TRAD: We have already seen 18 projects completed in areas such as Cherbourg, Mareeba, South Burnett, North Burnett and Townsville. There is plenty more to come, with local governments estimating that almost 6,000 jobs will ultimately be supported through this funding for more than 700 projects approved in regional councils—areas from Mapoon to Maranoa, from Douglas to Diamantina. Councils are reporting that they have job-creating projects in various stages of progress and that these projects are bringing more people into work each and every week.

The Works for Queensland program is making a real difference to the lives of Queenslanders and to their communities right across the state. The further \$200 million commitment in our budget means that councils will be able to continue the wonderful work already achieved through Works for Queensland.

Budget

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.51 am): The 2017-18 Palaszczuk Labor government's state budget continues with the implementation of our economic plan to restore confidence, restore front-line services, create more jobs and incentivise stronger growth. Business confidence is up. Debt is lower than forecast under the former government. Unemployment is lower. We have created nearly 60,000 net new jobs since the 2015 election. Despite suggestions from those opposite on Tuesday that the economy had shrunk by \$30 billion, with real gross state product at over \$320 billion our economy is growing.

We know that we need to create more jobs and economic opportunities, particularly in regional Queensland. The combination of jobs programs and infrastructure spending will deliver inclusive growth, and these infrastructure projects will incentivise more investment and more jobs. This budget supports around 40,000 jobs in 2017-18.

What do others have to say about this budget? The Property Council has said—

The Queensland State Budget ... contained several positive initiatives for the property industry ...

On Cross River Rail it said—

... the biggest news of the day was the Government's commitment to go it alone on Cross River Rail ...

...

... the decision to move forward and deliver CRR is supported.

It welcomed the extension of the First Home Owners' Grant and said—

This is a great example of a program not only supporting Queenslanders into their first home, but also leveraging the job generating capacity of the property industry.

The LGAQ has said that councils welcome the state budget's local jobs boost, in particular Works for Queensland, as we have heard from the Deputy Premier. LGAQ chief executive Greg Hallam said—

All up, this is a Budget that is well-considered and well-targeted to helping those regional communities that need it most.

The deputy CEO of Master Builders, Paul Bidwell, said—

We came hoping the treasurer would provide some support, some additional work, for the building sector—and he's done that ...

He gave the budget 7¼ out of 10. Mark Goodsell, acting Queensland director of AIG, said—

From an industry point of view the budget ticks a number of important boxes. In infrastructure, in energy, and also maintaining the social contract is an important underpinning for economic growth ...

The chief executive of the Queensland Tourism Industry Council, Daniel Gschwind, said—

The 2017-18 Queensland Budget has recognised tourism's role as a critical driver of jobs and regional development, supported with investment across a range projects and industry development initiatives.

He went on to say—

We are very pleased to see a significant boost to investment in new visitor infrastructure in National Parks with \$35 million allocated over the next two years—QTIC made a strong economic case for this investment which will also support conservation outcomes.

AMA Queensland president Dr Bill Boyd said—

We feel that we're happy with this Budget. We're pleased that the Government has seen fit to significantly increase the Health budget for Queenslanders.

Margy Osmond from the Tourism & Transport Forum said—

In handing down yesterday's 2017-18 Queensland Budget, the Palaszczuk Government sent a strong message that it recognised the potential of the tourism and transport sectors to create jobs, grow the visitor economy and deliver critical infrastructure ...

Infrastructure Partnerships Australia Chief Executive Brendan Lyon said—

The Queensland Government deserves credit for finding the money for the Cross River Rail project—and for lifting general infrastructure funding ...

I could go on and on. There are comments from the Queensland Teachers' Union, Independent Schools Queensland, the Queensland Council of Unions and CCIQ. McCullough Robertson Lawyers got in there as well. The point is: it is not about this government telling people how good the budget is; stakeholders and people in the community are saying how good this budget is. That is the most important measure of all. This budget has to hit the ground, be effective in the economy and, of course, demonstrate that we have listened to stakeholders—something those opposite never did.

Budget, Queensland Ambulance Service



Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.55 am): I have often spoken in this House about the importance of our front-line health staff and the investment the Palaszczuk government has made to restore front-line services cut by the previous Newman LNP government. Today I want to pay tribute to those health workers who serve resolutely on the front line, who take health care directly to the community, who frequently provide the first point of contact and the first phase of treatment to Queenslanders at points in their life when they are often vulnerable, almost always anxious and, regrettably, occasionally aggressive. I speak of the hardworking men and women of the Queensland Ambulance Service.

The 2017-18 budget continues this government's record of delivery to the QAS to ensure Queenslanders have access to life-saving care where and when they need it. The QAS has an operating budget this year of \$719.6 million—an increase of \$46.6 million, or 6.9 per cent, and \$125 million more than the allocation in the final budget of the now Leader of the Opposition when he was treasurer in the Newman government.

The QAS will have a capital budget of \$54.6 million in 2017-18—an increase of almost 32 per cent on the allocation provided under the last Newman LNP government. This funding will support the critical work our ambulance officers do in our community by continuing to deliver the necessary staffing and facilities they need to help Queenslanders in need. That includes in 2017 the recruitment of 75 additional ambulance staff to provide enhanced roster coverage to manage increasing demand for ambulance services.

We will be commissioning 150 new and replacement ambulance vehicles and continuing the rollout of new power assisted stretchers. The Palaszczuk government is also investing \$16.9 million in planning or delivering new and replacement ambulance stations at Birtinya on the Sunshine Coast, Bundaberg, Kenilworth, Thursday Island, Coral Gardens on the Gold Coast, Wynnum, Rockhampton, Hervey Bay, Drayton, Cairns and Kirwan in Townsville.

Our government is delivering for all Queenslanders, regardless of where they live. Like other areas in our health system, our ambulance services are facing the ongoing challenge of rising demand. In the past year our ambulances were called to respond on 1.1 million occasions—an increase of 164,000 call-outs under the Newman LNP government. Despite this unprecedented demand surge, our communications staff are answering over 90 per cent of all triple 0 calls within 10 seconds. According to the Productivity Commission's Report on Government Services, QAS response times in Queensland are the third best in the country—an extraordinary achievement for a state of our geographical size and the dispersed nature of our population.

The 2017 state budget continues the Palaszczuk government's commitment to deliver high-quality front-line health services to Queenslanders, including by supporting our professional and hardworking Queensland Ambulance Service staff.

North Queensland Stadium

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (9.58 am): I am pleased to advise the House that the Palaszczuk government is delivering on its promise of jobs for North Queensland from the \$250 million North Queensland Stadium in Townsville. Expressions of interest for the stadium's first three early works packages closed on Monday. By the end of this month, managing contractor Watpac will start inviting shortlisted companies to submit tenders for these packages. This means that soon local people will be on site in Saunders Street working in jobs in demolition, temporary fencing, temporary services, construction of on-site amenities, civil works, crane hire, cleaning services as well as licensed traffic control managers. By the time the North Queensland Stadium is completed for the start of the 2020 NRL season, Watpac estimates that more than 2,000 people will have worked on the stadium project during design and construction.

The best news is that Watpac's plan is that more than 80 per cent of hours spent building the stadium will be by locals and at least 80 per cent of the value of the project will be spent on local subcontractors and suppliers, and this government is very focused on that local content. When Watpac released its first 237 trade packages on the ICN network earlier this month and called for expressions of interest, I asked my Department of State Development to ensure that local companies were brought up to speed. My department arranged calls and emails to more than 400 companies that had previously expressed interest in the indicative trade packages. I wanted them all to make sure they got on board with Watpac's detailed trade packages.

As well, on Tuesday and Wednesday this week my department had information sessions to help contractors through the process of registering for work online on the stadium and other local opportunities. Sixteen of the available work packages close for expression of interest tomorrow and another three on Monday. Later this week 53 more trade packages will be released for expression of interest. That is more jobs and more opportunities for more local businesses in North Queensland. There will be early work soon. By September we will have broken ground and by early next year full-blown construction will be underway on this stadium. It has been said before, but it is important to say it again: this stadium is going to be built by the people of North Queensland for the people of North Queensland.

Child Safety

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.00 am): The Palaszczuk government is building a stronger child protection system to help our most vulnerable Queenslanders. We have delivered the biggest investment in front-line staff in well over a decade with almost 300 extra staff on top of the 129 already on the ground this year, and I am pleased to say that 236 new front-line and front-line support staff will start this coming year. Professor Karen Healy, national President of the Australian Association of Social Workers and a former child safety officer, said that this plan will save lives and provide better outcomes for families.

The Palaszczuk government will continue to put the interests of at-risk children first and do everything possible to help tackle the scourge of ice addiction and its devastating impacts on families. This is an incredibly complex area. The families that we are working with are experiencing multiple issues, including increased levels of domestic and family violence in the home and, worryingly, growing ice usage. The Palaszczuk government is showing leadership on this issue. We are the first government to recognise the impact ice is having on vulnerable families we work with because we are the first government to measure how and where ice is leaving children vulnerable and at risk. The recent research showed us that one in three children subject to a Child Safety investigation has a parent using ice and these families were concentrated in ice corridors across the state. For the first time we have introduced tough new policies with mandatory drug testing as well as new training for our front-line staff.

Since our policy began, 853 drug tests have been undertaken by parents working with us to ensure that our child safety officers, who I think have the toughest job in this state, have the right information to make a decision about whether a child is at risk. We are reporting on this publicly and we are bringing the issue out into the open, and that is why I am so proud to be a member of the Palaszczuk government that has responded this week with an \$18 million ice package, including \$7.4 million to directly target families affected by ice who are involved with the child safety department. I am committed to ensuring that our extra staff will be focused on reinforcing our front-line workers who work with families in these ice corridors and I will keep the House updated about where these new workers will be placed in ice corridors across the state.

Renewable Energy

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (10.03 am): Despite the toxic mess the divided Turnbull government has made and continues to make of national energy policy, the Palaszczuk government is powering ahead in Queensland. We came to government with a clear commitment to increase the uptake of renewable energy after a renewable energy blackout under the LNP when we lost 1,300 renewable energy jobs under the previous government.

In just 18 months under the Palaszczuk government, Queensland is seeing a renewable energy boom with an unprecedented level of renewable energy investment in our state. Some 17—let me say that again: 17—large-scale renewable energy projects are committed for Queensland and have either commenced construction, finished construction or are finalising commercial arrangements. I table a very busy map of Queensland showing the extent of those investments throughout our state.

Tabled paper: Map of Queensland titled Queensland Renewable Project Pipeline, May 2017 [\[987\]](#).

Ms Palaszczuk: Regional Queensland.

Mr BAILEY: Exactly, Premier; most of them in regional Queensland. The Palaszczuk government understands and agrees with Dr Alan Finkel that renewable energy is a lot cheaper—not a little but much cheaper—to construct now than new coal-fired generation. These projects will bring \$2.2 billion worth of investment to Queensland supporting 2,200 jobs and reduce carbon emissions by 2.8 million tonnes a year. When complete, these projects will deliver almost 1,200 megawatts of clean power—more than doubling Queensland's current renewable energy supply. This will provide the annual energy needs for more than half a million Queenslanders.

Recently we announced our Powering North Queensland plan—a road map to unlock another wave of energy projects to power the North Queensland economy and support 5,000 jobs. This includes a \$150 million investment to deliver a bulk transmission line to unlock around 2,000 megawatts of wind, pumped hydro and solar projects in North Queensland, creating a North Queensland clean energy hub. We have also committed \$236 million to upgrade the Burdekin Falls Dam to fund a hydropower station to make four hydropower stations in North Queensland, not one little one as the member for Clayfield alleged the other day—one little one; how embarrassing—and investment in water supply and sustainable energy generation in North Queensland.

In line with the recommendation of the renewable energy target expert panel final report, the Palaszczuk government will unleash a reverse auction of up to 400 megawatts of renewable energy capacity in the second half of this year. We are bringing forward renewable technology solutions not being delivered by the market to support long-term system security, which includes a dispatchable renewable generation of 100 megawatts of battery storage in our state for the first time. Recently our solar rooftops combined surpassed the Gladstone Power Station and are now effectively Queensland's largest power station, and continuing to grow.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to our 50 per cent target by 2030 on renewable energy—a target comparable to the effective 42 per cent target under the clean energy target recommended by Dr Finkel in his review of the national energy market. Our commitment is to establishing a new, large-scale renewable energy industry in our state creating jobs, diversifying our economy and putting downward pressure on electricity prices. The key question is: will the opposition leader commit to these thousands of clean energy jobs for Queenslanders, particularly in North Queensland, or will he cut them like he cut them last time with 14,000 sackings and 1,300 renewable energy jobs lost? Queensland does not need more LNP cuts; it needs jobs, it needs building, it needs investment, and that is what it is getting with the Palaszczuk government.

International Cleaners Day; Public Service, Accommodation

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Sport) (10.07 am): As a member of the cleaners union, I join Mr Speaker in acknowledging that today is International Cleaners Day and acknowledge the critical role that cleaners play in keeping our schools, our hospitals and our workplaces safe. There is no bigger dividing line in this House than the question of how Queensland's hardworking public servants should be treated, including cleaners employed by Queensland government agencies. We on this side of the House back the men and women who work hard every day supporting Queenslanders to make this the great state that it is while those opposite have quite a miserable record of Public Service cuts and the most destruction ever recorded, including repeated attempts to sack the cleaning workforce. Instead, we back our front-line workers. We back our health workers, we back our police, we back our teachers, and we back our

housing and our Building and Asset Services staff. We back our paramedics, our Child Safety workers, our prison officers and our support staff who run our schools. We know that these people are working for Queenslanders every day. They make our state a better, safer, smarter and more prosperous place to live. They are essential workers; they are not de-necessary.

I am very pleased to inform the House that, as part of our commitment to people working for Queenslanders, this government will be investing \$168.5 million into government employee housing as part of this year's budget. This will see 113 new homes over four years so that regional, remote and outback communities can attract and retain more hardworking Queenslanders. We will be upgrading and improving 4,915 homes across the state to make sure that those who are serving our state are living in conditions worthy of their services.

Queenslanders went into shock when those opposite held the treasury benches. The severity and savagery of their job cuts was bad enough, but those 14,000 people who were so cruelly and heartlessly dehumanised and discarded were providing services to Queenslanders. We are not only restoring those services but also giving those workers the tools they need to do their jobs. By restoring those services and providing decent, quality accommodation, we are backing in rural and regional Queensland communities.

The members opposite might remember those communities. The old National Party used to represent them. The Palaszczuk Labor government believes that Queenslanders who live in regional communities deserve to have access to essential services. Providing this accommodation helps us to bring doctors, nurses, teachers and police right into the centre of Queensland's rural and regional communities. Each of those workers brings another income—and often another family—into rural and regional towns, just as construction and upgrade programs add a massive boost to economic activity in rural and remote Queensland. In those towns local businesses can be doing it tough. Sometimes the local post office has closed down because there are not enough people. Police officers, firefighters, paramedics, nurses, doctors, allied health practitioners and teachers are all essential and vital jobs in our regions and our significant investment is essential support for the work that they are doing.

Labor will never resile from its belief that, by working together, we are working for a better state; that we all do better when we all do better. If those opposite think that they can once again target and divide Queenslanders, bring it on.

Biosecurity

 **Hon. WS BYRNE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Economic Development) (10.11 am): Biosecurity has been and remains a priority for the Palaszczuk government. In this year's budget, there is funding to continue the fight against pests, diseases and weeds that threaten the productivity of the agricultural sector. That funding includes an allocation of up to \$9 million over the next two years to continue the response to white spot disease. It also includes funding to specific programs to address panama, red fire ants, electric ants, cucumber green mottle mosaic virus, red witchweed, four tropical weeds and exotic fruit fly in the Torres Strait. This budget also includes an additional allocation of more cluster fencing to protect against the wild dog threat and to improve management of the pest weed *navua sedge*.

After the cuts of the Newman administration, in opposition we promised to restore response capability. I commissioned an independent review of Queensland's biosecurity capability. That resulted in seven new priority initiatives and we funded the implementation of the review recommendations. These recommendations are on track for completion by the four-year deadline.

One of the recommendations was to develop a new Queensland biosecurity strategy. I have now released the draft for public feedback. I am delighted to table a copy of the strategy for the benefit of members.

Tabled paper. Department of Agriculture and Fisheries: Agriculture and Food Research, Development and Extension 10-year roadmap—Discussion Paper, June 2017 [\[988\]](#).

It is the first step towards more detailed action planning about how government, industry and the community will work together to prioritise biosecurity. We want Queenslanders to tell us whether the draft strategy reflects their vision for biosecurity over the next five years. I am very proud of the work that the Palaszczuk government is doing to modernise our biosecurity and make it more responsive. It is difficult to predict what the future holds. The threats are real and there are no guarantees, but we are determined to ensure that we are better prepared to respond in the future.

Today, as part of the Palaszczuk government's Advance Queensland initiative, I am also issuing a discussion paper on the future of Queensland's agricultural research, development and extension. The paper showcases how the sector has changed significantly over the years and the importance of

responding to changing demands. I am asking Queenslanders to share their ideas. Community feedback is open until 5 pm on Friday, 28 July. There will be consultation sessions in Brisbane, Bowen, Bundaberg, Cairns, Emerald and Toowoomba. I table a copy of that for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Draft Queensland Biosecurity Strategy—our next five years 2017-2022 [989].

MOTION

Portfolio Committee, Referral of Auditor-General's Reports



Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (10.14 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the Auditor-General's report to parliament No. 16 for 2016-17 titled *Government advertising* and the Auditor-General's report to parliament No. 17 for 2016-17 titled *Organisational structure and accountability* be referred to the Finance and Administration Committee.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Unemployment



Mr BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (10.15 am): This 2017 budget is a jobs bonanza con job. If we have a jobs budget, we would expect the unemployment rate in the future to decrease. There is no decrease in the unemployment rate. It is going up. This big jobs bonanza budget that the Labor Party has been going on about will increase the unemployment rate in the state of Queensland, which goes to show that the programs and policies that the Labor Party has implemented over the past 12 months have not worked.

The recent ABS statistics in relation to the youth jobs crisis facing many regions in Queensland under the do-nothing Palaszczuk Labor government show that the situation is getting worse. Those statistics show that, over the past year, the number of young Queenslanders with a job has fallen by 10,400—by far the worst statistic of all in Australia. Queensland should be leading the nation in job creation and job security but, sadly, under this government we are coming dead last.

These job losses are being felt right across many parts of Queensland, with the east and west parts of Brisbane, the Sunshine Coast and southern Moreton Bay areas hit the hardest. Over the past year, job losses experienced in our regions include Brisbane east, 4,400 jobs gone; Brisbane west, 4,200 jobs gone; and the Sunshine Coast, 4,100 jobs gone. The following region had an increase in youth unemployment: outback Queensland, up 15.4 per cent to 48.4 per cent. Nearly 50 per cent of young Queenslanders who live in outback Queensland do not have a job, cannot get a job and have no prospects of getting a job. In Brisbane west, there is up to 15.6 per cent youth unemployment and, in Brisbane east, up to 20.1 per cent youth unemployment. As I said, the problems extend to many parts of the state, including Queensland's south-east. The youth unemployment rate in Brisbane east alone is above 20 per cent.

Of course, the Minister for Employment gets up and says, 'Our Back to Work program in regional Queensland will fix all of these issues.' Now that program applies to South-East Queensland. We said 12 months ago that that program should apply to South-East Queensland, but the members opposite said, 'Youth unemployment is not an issue in South-East Queensland.'

In 2016, under the Minister for Training and Skills, 21,000 fewer young Queenslanders were in some form of vocational training. While I am talking about the Minister for Skills and Training, I refer to the rescue package that was put in place for TAFE Queensland. There are going to be job losses in TAFE Queensland in the next 12 months. At the moment, there are 4,015 jobs in TAFE Queensland, going down to 3,989 next year. They are sacking TAFE workers, yet they say that they are going to rescue TAFE. Maybe TAFE did need rescuing, but not from the LNP but from the Labor Party.

Employment



Hon. G GRACE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.18 am): I love it when the member for Kawana gets up in this place and expects people to think that he makes any sense. Does he really believe that someone who the LNP hid away for six months before and during the last election comes here with any credibility? If there is any con job in this House at the moment, it is those opposite trying

to convince Queenslanders that they care about jobs. These are the members who, in government, sacked 14,000 public servants and community organisation workers. Do members know where they started? With the nurses at Townsville Hospital.

The Palaszczuk Labor government's Back to Work program is the leading jobs program in Australia. It has exceeded all expectations and the numbers speak for themselves. I remember the member for Kawana saying it will never work, it will fail, it will not deliver any jobs. Well, he is 4,841 reasons wrong. That is the number of people who are in jobs because of Back to Work. Not only that, we have another 800 or so applications pending, which means that we are well over the 5,500 jobs created during this program in less than 12 months. What is fantastic about this program is that the number of young jobseekers are now exceeding the number of ordinary jobseekers in numbers being employed. In nine months the Youth Boost has been an outstanding success and has exceeded all expectations.

We have injected \$25 million into regional Queensland and \$70 million will be paid over the next 12 months. Because of that success we are now extending it into South-East Queensland to help the long-term unemployed. This is a program that is designed magnificently. This is a program that employers absolutely love. This is a program that is delivering people into jobs and giving them an opportunity. All we have from those opposite is carping upon carping. Let me tell the member for Kawana that, if he thinks anyone takes him seriously with his crocodile tears worrying about jobs in regional Queensland or worrying about jobs in the south-east corner, he should not kid himself any further. Let me put him out of his misery. Nobody believes him. Nobody gives him any credibility. The Leader of the Opposition was the treasurer who sacked 14,000 public servants and that will haunt him for the rest of his life.

Budget, Roads

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (10.21 am): Today the Palaszczuk Labor government's con job of a budget stands condemned. Last night the parliament took the extraordinary step of condemning the Premier, her ministers and this budget for the abysmal road infrastructure spend. Queenslanders have every right to be angry that this government is not investing in their much needed roads. Compared to Labor's own budget from last financial year—which, by the way, was also an absolute failure for roads and transport infrastructure—we have seen a further \$400 million ripped out of roads and transport infrastructure across the state. That is nearly \$85 million ripped out of the Wide Bay-Burnett region; \$15 million worth of road cuts out of the north-west—I wonder how the member for Mount Isa is feeling about that; \$7 million out of the south-west; and closer to home for you and for me, Mr Speaker, the Sunshine Coast and Moreton Bay have lost \$63 million in the TMR budget. Mr Speaker, you and I both know just how far that funding would go to improving dangerous roads in the Sunshine Coast hinterland. There are more cuts across the state: \$17 million from Northern Queensland; \$34 million from Far North Queensland; \$16 million cut in Mackay-Whitsunday; \$26 million in the Fitzroy region; and \$134 million slashed in the Darling Downs—we heard last night from the member for Toowoomba South the impact that will have on his community, on his constituents, on the roads in that region. All up, it is a \$400 million drop in funding from last year.

If we compare that to the LNP's spending on roads it is even worse. It is down \$528 million. It is a kick in the guts for Queenslanders outside of the Gold Coast and Brisbane because we know in many towns and cities across the state transport infrastructure and roads means jobs, it means getting products to market, it means safety and getting loved ones home to their families. This government stands condemned because it has ripped road funding out of regional Queensland to pad the Deputy Premier's inner-city electorate. Regional Labor members in this place must front up to their communities and explain why \$400 million in road upgrades and transport infrastructure was ripped out of their regions by the Premier. Queenslanders know that only the LNP has the track record and the experience to build the roads, the bridges and the dams this state desperately needs.

Liberal National Party, Performance

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games) (10.24 am): The member for Glass House is in a glass house all right. This is a man who just got up and talked about con jobs. I am happy to talk about the con job from the former member for Ashgrove too. I was just about to get to that. We have just had the member for Glass House talk about con jobs. Let us talk about con jobs. The biggest con job of all right now is the one where the LNP are coming crawling back to the Public Service and begging them saying, 'Please trust us.' Trust us? Why would they trust the member for Clayfield when he went to the last election in 2012

saying their jobs would be safe and then months later in his very first budget he cuts 14,000 of them to the scrap heap. He is coming back with, 'That is not me; I am the new Tim. That was not me; it was Campbell Newman.' Those opposite thought that the whole bringing someone from outside of parliament worked so well for them—for one term—that now they are bringing David Crisafulli back into the parliament.

Ms Palaszczuk: Wasn't he in Townsville?

Ms JONES: I think he was from Townsville. I take that interjection, Premier. Those opposite are trying to remodel themselves to build trust with the public sector. Young LNP lackeys have been standing out the front of the executive building that I will be paying for until the day I die another 30 years from now. In actual fact, my daughter, who is three, will be paying taxes on that building. They are trying to repaint their image in the public sector by putting out a policy saying, 'You know what, if we are back in government we are going to put more women into positions of power. That is what we are going to do,' but they are only going to do it in the public sector. They are not going to do it on the Gold Coast. They are not going to promote the youngest woman in the Queensland parliament. They are going to neck her. It is interesting that the vote on the Gold Coast by the branch members of the LNP was a clear rejection of the current leadership of the LNP. Tim Nicholls backed Verity Barton, but he got voted out four to one. We all know that the member for Clayfield is only sitting there in that leadership position by two votes. We all know, as he confessed this morning, that the honourable member for Everton still wants to be the leader.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms JONES: They are talking now! When a party is preselecting against themselves they are deeply divided.

Ms Bates: It's the *Mean Girls*.

Ms JONES: I take that interjection.

Mr SPEAKER: It will be a long day, members, and a long evening.

Ms JONES: I take that interjection from the feminist from Mudgeeraba.

Budget, Justices of the Peace

 **Mr EMERSON** (Indooroopilly—LNP) (10.28 am): This budget has rightly been condemned as not a jobs bonanza but a con job because it delivers Queenslanders more of the same Labor jobs misery. Not only was it a con job; it was also clearly an incompetent job. This budget was not the result of careful and prudent decision-making; it was a typical bungled Labor effort thrown together in a desperate and panicked effort to hold onto seats at the election. With the ink barely dry on the budget papers we have already seen the Premier order a review into a revenue raising measure which would have driven up costs for our hardworking justices of the peace by 200 per cent. When I asked about this cash grab yesterday the Premier clearly had no idea. Guess what? She ordered a review—another review!

Of course, this was not the only stuff-up we have seen. We also had an energy minister getting it wrong. Wholesale electricity prices have jumped 70 per cent on his watch. What did he say when asked about this on ABC Radio? He said that the data was seven months old. The data was actually from a report released by the Australian Energy Regulator about a fortnight ago. Maybe that report was sent to his private email address. Maybe he deleted it as well and that is why he could not remember it.

Then there is the Treasurer. We saw the embarrassing situation where ABC's Steve Austin had to tell the Treasurer how big the blowout was in the Public Service because he had no idea. We know that Labor has tried to hide away 'Captain Risky', but yesterday they had to give him a ministerial statement. It would just look too embarrassing the day after the budget if they did not give him a chance. After all, what could go wrong? The statement was written out for him. He only had to do one job, one job alone—surely he could not stuff it up. What happened? The Treasurer gets up and claims the cost of Cross River Rail is not \$5.4 billion but \$5.8 billion. We know that Labor's figures are always rubbery and they can never be believed, but maybe 'Captain Risky' should have kept that secret. We know he always gets it wrong or maybe that was just another aspirational figure from the Treasurer.

Is it any wonder then that for the first time in the history of the Queensland parliament we saw last night a key part of a state budget condemned by the parliament in budget week? This parliament, like the rest of Queensland, understands that this budget is just a con job. Everyone understands that all it has done is left us up 'Pitt Creek' without a paddle.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will finish at 11.31 am.

Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply, Email Account

Mr NICHOLLS (10.31 am): My first question is to the Premier. Premier, the media today reports that Minister Bailey used his private Yahoo email account to correspond with his director-general. Can the Premier confirm if this is true?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. In budget week he is, of course, once again asking the questions that matter the most to Queenslanders—asking the tough questions about the budget.

Mr SPEAKER: I would ask the Premier to answer the question.

Ms PALASZCZUK: They are too scared to ask the Treasurer a question about the budget.

Mr SPEAKER: Please do not debate it.

Ms PALASZCZUK: In relation to the question that the Leader of the Opposition has asked, those matters are currently before the CCC.

Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply, Email Account

Mr NICHOLLS: My second question is to the Premier. In light of the revelations today that Minister Bailey emailed his director-general from his Yahoo account, contrary to his previous explanations, will the Premier finally show some leadership and press delete on the ministerial career of Minister Bailey?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Once again, I thank the Leader of the Opposition for asking another tough question about what matters for Queenslanders in the budget. They have asked about Minister Bailey. Let us talk about some of the initiatives Minister Bailey has in the budget. I took the Powering Queensland Plan, announced recently, down to COAG. Queensland is leading the nation. We are driving a renewable future. That is \$2 billion worth of renewable projects.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier—

Ms PALASZCZUK: He asked about Minister Bailey; I am talking about Minister Bailey. I have answered the previous question. The same question has been asked. Those matters are before the CCC. I am talking about what Minister Bailey is doing for this state in his ministerial—

Ms Trad interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. When it comes to bringing back Swanbank E, we saw Minister Bailey out there making sure we had the additional supply that was needed—

Mr NICHOLLS: I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker.

Ms PALASZCZUK: He does not like the answer.

Mr SPEAKER: One moment, Premier.

Mr NICHOLLS: The question was really about the Premier's leadership and whether she will have the leadership strength to sack or delete Minister Bailey for his misuse of email accounts.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I rise on the point of order, Mr Speaker. The Leader of the Opposition has used a point of order in order to try to reframe and rephrase his question. The question clearly asked the Premier about what action she might take in relation to the minister. She was answering a question in relation to the minister and his role.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Let us talk about the investment program for Queensland Transport and Main Roads—\$21 billion investment over the next four years, providing 17,000 jobs throughout Queensland. That is what Minister Bailey has been doing.

Mr NICHOLLS: I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker. There were two points of orders raised. I was waiting for you to come to a decision before the Premier tries to divert us all elsewhere other than her leadership.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, I find that you have answered the question and we will move on to the next question.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I do not need a cheer squad.

Gold Coast, Jobs

Mr PEGG: My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier outline what work the Queensland government has undertaken to broaden job opportunities on the Gold Coast and any endorsements of those projects?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Stretton very much for that question. As we know, jobs are very important in this year's budget. For the Gold Coast alone some 3,100 jobs will be created. Of course we have the Commonwealth Games coming up next year. There is record investment of \$1.5 billion to create jobs. The Minister for the Commonwealth Games and I have recently—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I am having difficulty hearing you, Premier. I am now going to warn the member for Gaven and the member for Albert for their interjections. I find they are designed to disrupt. The Premier is answering the question. I am having difficulty hearing her. You are warned under standing order 253A. If you persist I will take the appropriate action. That applies to everyone in the chamber.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We know those opposite do not like good news. They do not like to hear the good news and what is happening on the Gold Coast. As I was saying, the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games are coming up in 2018. Some 800 new jobs have just been advertised. We are seeing a lot of development happen down there.

In this year's budget we have \$200 million to complete the second stage of Gold Coast Light Rail. Well done, Deputy Premier. I recall the member for Southport came along to that announcement by me and the Prime Minister and jumped in for a selfie. He loves it so much; someone on that side who likes public transport. That is what we like to see. In fact, I think we even saw the Leader of the Opposition and some of his other people hopping on Gold Coast Light Rail when they were on the Gold Coast recently.

We saw on budget day a tweet from the member for Southport—'So much happening in Southport, all this at Parklands and the light rail extension and a plethora of roadworks ...' Here is the picture that he put up—a beautiful picture. I see the Gold Coast University Hospital. I wonder who built the Gold Coast University Hospital. Who built that hospital? Labor.

Mr MOLHOEK: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Premier is actually taking that tweet out of context. She is misleading the House because I was actually paying homage to great people who have gone before her and us who pioneered some of these initiatives.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: Mr Speaker, I rise on the point of order. If the member for Southport is seeking to establish that there is some sort of context of a 140-character tweet on Twitter, the context is surely the whole of Twitterverse. Is he requiring the Premier to table the whole of Twitter in order to justify the fact that she can make remarks about his quotes on social media?

Mr MOLHOEK: Mr Speaker, I rise on the point of order. The Leader of the House is misleading the House. My comments were extensive and they were posted on Facebook. It was actually members of the opposition who chose to take screenshots and repost those comments.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, I happen to be on my feet.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise on the point of order. Mr Speaker, I counted the time that you were on your feet which was 35 seconds, and the government ministers and members of the backbench were continually laughing over the top of you whilst you were on your feet. The opposition was silent. I ask you to rule on their misbehaviour while you were on your feet.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Kawana. I find that the behaviour of most members this morning is not acceptable and not the appropriate standard that we should conduct ourselves in parliament. I find those points of order not relevant. Premier, do you have anything further to add?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Absolutely, Mr Speaker. We saw the member for Chatsworth rush over to the member for Southport and say, 'Sit down. Sit down. Don't say anything more. You are going to distract from the Leader of the Opposition's budget reply speech.'

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Premier. Do you have anything further to add that is relevant?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I do, Mr Speaker. In relation to the tweet by the member for Southport, I just want to reiterate that it was put out on 13 June at 10.53 pm—on budget day. I table that tweet.

Tabled paper: Extract, dated 14 June 2017, from the Twitter profile of the member for Southport, Mr Rob Molhoek MP in relation to Southport [\[990\]](#).

My government will continue to support the Gold Coast. We will govern for all of Queensland. I am looking forward to the cabinet going down to the Gold Coast and governing from the Gold Coast in the very near future.

(Time expired)

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, members. Is that the member for Logan up the back?

Opposition members: Yes!

Mr Power: I believe, Mr Speaker, it was actually the member for Mermaid Beach.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Logan, you are warned under standing order 253A. If there are any other participating members, they will be warned as well. The member for Logan joins the members for Gaven and Albert with a warning.

Budget, Roads

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My question without notice is to the Premier. Premier, last night the government suffered a historic defeat and now stands condemned—

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, I have made it very clear that if a member is asking a question they need to be heard in silence. I will warn the whole frontbench of the government if it continues. I ask the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to repeat the question.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My question without notice is to the Premier. Premier, last night the government suffered a historic defeat and now stands condemned by this parliament for slashing \$400 million out of the roads budget. Will the Premier now reverse this bad decision to cut road funding?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Nanango for the question. When they are talking about historic defeats, perhaps we can go back to the last election, friends. Can we go back to the last election? The largest majority that Queensland had ever seen, led by Campbell Newman and Tim Nicholls—

Ms Grace: And the member for Kawana.

Ms PALASZCZUK:—and the member for Kawana was involved in that, as well as the member for Callide—and where are they now? If they want to talk about history, \$600 million was cut from the roads budget under the LNP—\$600 million. What my government has been doing and what Minister Bailey has been doing is restoring road funding across the state. I can remember very clearly sitting with the mayors—I think the member for Mount Isa was with me too—when all of that road funding was cut to western roads. We restored that funding. RoadTek staff were axed under the former government.

We will continue to invest in roads because we know that we need the roads. Whether it is out west, whether it is up and down the Bruce Highway, whether it is fixing the M1 which we found a solution to, whether it is building the road networks or whether it is having the market-led proposal for the Logan Motorway interchange creating 1,100 jobs, my government is prepared to invest in the roads that are needed to service our growing state.

Let us talk about some of those road projects now from the budget. There is \$120 million to duplicate the Bruce Highway between Caloundra Road and the Sunshine Motorway, totalling \$929.3 million. There is \$105 million to undertake restoration works under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Honourable members, I issue a general warning to all members: if your behaviour does not improve, I will consider taking action under standing order 256, which states—

In the case of grave disorder arising in the House, the Speaker may without any question being put, suspend any sitting to a time to be determined by the Speaker.

Ms PALASZCZUK: As we know from the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Debbie, \$1.1 billion is needed to restore our communities. Out of that, over \$400 million will be allocated to restoring the roads throughout our state. That is an extra \$400 million which we did not foresee because of the impact of that cyclone. Most of that is in regional communities. We will continue to govern for all of Queensland. We will continue to invest in the road networks. We will not cut \$600 million out of roads investment, as we saw happen under the LNP.

Works for Queensland

Mrs GILBERT: My question is to the Deputy Premier. Will the Deputy Premier inform the House about the Palaszczuk government's commitment to Works for Queensland? Is the Deputy Premier aware of any alternative views?

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for Mackay for the question. I know that she has been a very strong advocate for the Works for Queensland program because her community, the Mackay community, has received some \$11.5 million so that they can roll out 36 projects—36 projects that the council would not have otherwise been able to afford to invest in if it were not for the Works for Queensland program, and this means jobs. In this year's budget Works for Queensland gets an additional \$200 million to spend over the next two years. This is about jobs, this is about infrastructure and this is about investment in regional Queensland.

No wonder there has been such strong support for the program right across regional Queensland from every mayor. The Local Government Association of Queensland said the continuation of the Works for Queensland program would create thousands of jobs across local communities and kickstart hundreds of infrastructure projects. In fact, the LGAQ Chief Executive Officer, Greg Hallam, said—

All up, this is a Budget that is well-considered and well-targeted to helping those regional communities that need it most.

He said extending the Works for Queensland program—by \$200 million over the next two years—would ensure local councils were able to continue being a key driver of job creation in Queensland.

The Mayor of Gympie, Mick Curran, said—

The extension of W4Q funding and the flow on to the regions has and will continue to see job creating projects delivered by LG and is fantastic news.

The Mayor of Murweh Shire Council, Annie Liston, said—

The program has been such a boon to our smaller councils, particularly those with a low rate base. The added benefit is it gives us the opportunity to employ and upskill our local workers.

The Mayor of Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council, Ralph Kendall, said—

When visiting work sites we find the participants undertaking different jobs & very interested in what they are doing, making a collective effort as they upskill themselves and are aware that they bring home a full day's pay & improve the infrastructure of community.

Works for Queensland is working for Queensland. The only criticism we hear amongst all of the widespread support is from those opposite. They want to come in here and talk about cuts. When they were in government they cut TIDS funding to local councils by some 37 per cent. They cut the state government financial assistance programs for local councils. In fact, there was not a program for local councils and local regional economies that they did not want to cut, and they want to come in here and talk about cuts. When the Leader of the Opposition stands on his feet today and gives his budget address-in-reply, he needs to make a commitment to the Works for Queensland program because if he does not we will—

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: I am informed that we have students from the McDowall State School in the electorate of Everton observing our proceedings. Welcome.

Budget, Roads

Mr BENNETT: My question is to the Premier. Following last night's remarkable passing of a motion condemning the Palaszczuk government for slashing road funding, will the Premier now reverse that bad decision to slash \$85 million from road funding in the Wide Bay-Burnett?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Burnett for the question. I am quite sure the member for Burnett will be very pleased that we have allocated \$200,000 in this year's budget to refurbish blocks 1 and 2 through the School Infrastructure Enhancement Program at Childers State School. I am quite sure he will be very happy about that.

As was made very clear earlier, the cuts that the LNP are talking about happened under their watch. Let us have a look at the QTRIP comparison because I have some very interesting figures to share with the House. Under Campbell Newman, in the 2014-15 to 2017-18 QTRIP, \$18 billion was allocated. In our QTRIP \$20.977 billion is allocated. That is an increase in the money that is going to be distributed.

As I was saying, there is an additional \$400 million to repair roads which were impacted by Cyclone Debbie. That information has just come to hand through the Deputy Premier's reconstruction unit. They can peddle what they want, but it is not going to stack up because the regional communities that we represent know the funding is happening. Not only that, we are driving new funding. As I said very clearly before, we have new funding for the Logan Motorway extension. There is the Darra to Rocklea upgrade as well, and the minister and I were out there recently. There are increases in funding to the Bruce Highway and the M1, one of Queensland's busiest roads, which once again we had to fight Canberra to get the money for. We will continue to fight for the money and we will continue to ensure that we give regional Queensland and Western Queensland the roads that they deserve.

Queensland Economy

Mr WHITING: My question without notice is to the Treasurer. I refer the Treasurer to the Palaszczuk government's economic plan and the three budgets that have been delivered this term, and I ask: is the Treasurer aware of any alternative economic plan for the management of the Queensland economy and the state's finances?

Mr PITT: I thank the member for his question. At 11.30 today we may hear something, but the member for Clayfield gave three budget speeches when he was treasurer and today he gives this opposition's third budget reply speech. So far not one of them has contained an economic plan except to sell assets that Queenslanders did not want sold. We still have no detailed economic policies or economic plan. They do not want to do the hard work. Under this opposition we know what LNP stands for. It stands for 'Lazy with No Policy'.

They constantly talk down our state. They talk about all of the negative things that have occurred over the last five years, most of which have been them trying to make these turn into self-fulfilling prophecies. We have been looking for signs of a comprehensive, detailed economic plan from the LNP and the only hint we have is something we stumbled across here at parliament. The member for Clayfield has basically admitted that the business case for 1 William Street was done on the back of an envelope. This is even worse than being done on the back of an envelope. This is so light; it is the size of a business card. It is not authorised. There is no LNP logo on it but we know it is theirs because of the content.

Mr SPEAKER: You do not need a prop, Treasurer.

Mr PITT: I will table that, Mr Speaker.

Tabled paper: Business card, titled 'Together, Let's Build a Better Queensland' [\[991\]](#).

The content is exactly what you would expect. It contains five different aims—

Create jobs ... and better manage our finances.

They cut 14,000 jobs in their first budget, many in regional centres. The member for Clayfield was so lazy that he gave up on his four per cent unemployment target. It says—

Build stronger families

They promised to cut the cost of living in terms of electricity by \$120 a year but it went up by 43 per cent over their term. It says—

Provide safe and liveable communities

They cut front-line services right across the state with regional communities hit hardest. It says—

Build the roads, bridges ...

How can they fund infrastructure when they have rejected all of our revenue plans? The only bridges that need to be built are down at the Gold Coast. Our budget earmarks \$10.2 billion this year under our \$42.75 billion capital works plan, supporting 29,000 jobs. This budget supports 40,000 jobs in 2017-18 alone. The last one says—

Deliver better government ...

We know they love smaller government, which is indicated by the size of the business card, but when it comes to governments in this country we know that they have been the worst government in Queensland's history. It does not stop there. We looked around and asked whether they had any other policies. They have confused their transport policy with their health policy. This has been distributed to people in the Cleveland electorate. It states—

Car Rego Fairness Pledge

Our Plan to Make Running the Family Care Affordable.

Tabled paper: Document titled 'Car Rego Fairness Pledge' [\[992\]](#).

This is the evidence we need: making the family 'care' more affordable. This is the evidence we needed to prove that when it comes to the LNP they are all care and no responsibility. The Leader of the Opposition has a chance today to set the record straight to finally put something on the table. We know that he will come up with nothing yet again—

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Burdekin, I am informed that this morning we have in the Speaker's Gallery the Hon. Jim Elder, former deputy premier and former member for Manly and Capalaba, with his guests. Welcome.

Budget, Roads

Mr LAST: My question without notice is to the Premier. Last night was the first time in decades that a government has been condemned by this parliament. In light of this, will the Premier now reverse her cruel decision to slash \$52.2 million from the roads budget for the North Queensland regions?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Burdekin for his question. He is getting \$300,000 to refurbish classrooms in block C through the School Infrastructure Enhancement Program at Queens Beach State School. As I said very clearly, the cuts in the budget to road funding happened under the former LNP—\$600 million. We are continuing to invest. This is repetition of a question and I have answered that question before.

Mental Health Services

Mr CRAWFORD: My question is to the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. Will the minister outline investments the Palaszczuk government is making to improve the mental health of Queenslanders? Is the minister aware of any alternative approaches to that of the Palaszczuk government?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Barron River for his question and his ongoing commitment to improving public health services in the far north of our state, particularly Cairns. I am delighted to report to the House that in our budget this year the budget sees the biggest single investment in mental health infrastructure in Queensland in a decade—\$138.2 million on mental health infrastructure over the forward estimates. That includes a new mental health facility in Cairns worth \$70 million. The member for Barron River knows that that mental health unit has reached the end of its life. It needs to be replaced. We need to give the people of Cairns, the hinterland region and the broader cape the mental health services they need.

We will be investing \$70 million over four years to deliver that facility. We have listened to our mental health staff. We have listened to the community. It will provide between 40 to 50 beds, contemporary models of care and will meet the future demands of the community. That will be matched by the new replacement Barrett Adolescent Centre to be built at the Prince Charles campus in Brisbane, a \$68.2 million facility to be funded over the forward estimates, as well as additional forms of care—less intensive care for young people—two adolescent step-up, step-down facilities in Brisbane and two day-program spaces at the Gold Coast and Logan.

That puts this government in stark contrast to the LNP. When people say there are no differences between the major political parties—and there are other political parties, like One Nation and others, which say that—I say, 'Look at mental health in Queensland.' What did the previous government do when it came to mental health? When the Leader of the Opposition was treasurer, he was part of the first government in Queensland history to cut spending on mental health. What did they do with infrastructure? What did they do when they saw an ageing facility like the Cairns mental health facility? Nothing. What did they do when their own expert reference group said, 'Do not close the Barrett Adolescent Centre without replacement'? They closed it, with catastrophic consequences.

We have not heard one word of apology from the Leader of the Opposition. He has not said one word of apology for the decision that he and his government made that had catastrophic consequences for young Queenslanders. It is simply not good enough to say that he wants to be the alternative leader of this state, but he is not willing to apologise to people who were badly hurt by decisions he made. We have apologised for the Health payroll. I have personally apologised to staff in Queensland Health for the debacle that was payroll.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr DICK: We apologised as a party and as a government for that, but we have heard nothing. Well may the member for Kawana yell out, because he has never apologised for the decision he made and his government made. It is not good enough. Until the Leader of the Opposition apologises, he will never be fit to be leader of this state.

Budget, Roads

Mr McARDLE: My question is to the Premier. Now that the Palaszczuk government has been condemned by this parliament, will the Premier reverse her decision to cut \$63 million from the Sunshine Coast roads budget?

Ms PALASZCZUK: As I have said, and let me say it again so everyone in the House can hear—and I thank the member for the question—\$600 million was cut in road funding under the former government. This budget allocates \$5.8 billion for Transport and Main Roads, servicing more than 33,000 kilometres of road networks that we have across our entire state. We are putting the money where it is needed.

Mr McArdle: Not on the Sunshine Coast.

Ms PALASZCZUK: There has been a lot of investment in road infrastructure on the Sunshine Coast over many, many years. When I was a parliamentary secretary to the minister for main roads, I was up on the Sunshine Coast opening a new road. That is what I was doing. I was opening a new road when I was the parliamentary secretary to the minister for main roads. It is this government that is delivering for the people of Queensland, with a record investment across our state.

Budget, Education Infrastructure

Mr SAUNDERS: My question is to the Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games. Will the minister outline how the Palaszczuk government's record investment in education infrastructure is delivering for Maryborough and the rest of Queensland?

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for the question and for his advocacy on behalf of the people of Maryborough—not just as part of our record investment in Main Roads, as the Premier just outlined, but also on education and schools. I have actually had the privilege of going to the member for Maryborough's electorate and visiting a number of schools. Indeed, I am looking forward to going back to Maryborough with the member next week as well. That is because our record \$765 million investment in building new schools in areas that need it most, in delivering new classrooms and in maintenance—which will address the \$260 million maintenance backlog left by the LNP—will see a great investment in Maryborough schools.

In actual fact, there will be: \$4.5 million allocated for the new multipurpose hall at Maryborough State High School; \$1 million for extra classrooms at Tinana State School; \$250,000 to upgrade the outdoor learning area at Parke State School, which I know is something that the member for Maryborough is very interested in; and \$200,000 to refurbish blocks C and D at Maryborough state school.

This is a budget that delivers for the regions of Queensland, and we are doing that in every single portfolio across our government, including in the heartland for us at Gympie. In the Gympie electorate, we are investing more than \$10 million to improve school infrastructure, with \$8 million for more classrooms at Gympie Special School and \$300,000 to refurbish the Gympie State High School agricultural education centre.

Mr Perrett interjected.

Ms JONES: I thank the member for Gympie for that. I know it is something that he has advocated for and I think he will welcome this funding for his school. The mayor of Gympie has also welcomed this, saying that our investment in education is fantastic news for Gympie.

There is one member of parliament who does not want any investment in his electorate. Surprise, surprise—it is one of my good friends from the Gold Coast. The member for Albert claimed today in the *Gold Coast Bulletin* that there is no funding for infrastructure in this budget for the Gold Coast. That is right: he said that there was no funding, but there is \$73 million in education infrastructure alone being delivered on the Gold Coast, including in his own electorate. He is such a good member for his community that he does not even know what we are building in his community. There is \$5.5 million to build new classrooms at Pimpama State School and \$5 million for a brand-new hall at Pimpama State School. This is new money in this budget to deliver these projects on the Gold Coast. What kind of local member walks around their electorate and does not even see a new hall going up?

Mr Dick: An LNP member.

Ms JONES: An LNP member—I take that interjection. I have faith in the voters that they will be making a decision based on our government's strong commitment to education. The LNP close schools; we build schools. This is a record investment in capital works and maintenance for all schools across Queensland and a—

(Time expired)

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Transport

Mr POWELL: My question without notice is to the Premier. With reference to the transport plan for the Commonwealth Games, a year ago on 25 May 2016 the Premier told the House, 'I am advised that the transport model plan that he is speaking about is due to be released in September.' When we asked last month, the Premier told the House that it would be released by June. Given the Palaszczuk government has now failed to meet two self-imposed deadlines, when will the Premier deliver her secret transport plan for the Commonwealth Games?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. As I said, it will be out in June. As far as I look, it is Thursday, 15 June. It will be in June.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. The member's answer is relevant.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, because this gives me a great opportunity to talk about the Commonwealth Games. The Commonwealth Games are going to be happening—

Mr WATTS: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The clock is still paused.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The Minister for the Commonwealth Games and the Minister for Main Roads have already announced the plan to move 4.5-tonne trucks over to the left-hand lane for the M1 and M3 merge at Eight Mile Plains. Once again, this will make sure we manage the way in which people get transported around during this significant event. The other thing we are asking people who are planning to go to the Commonwealth Games to do is to think about staying in or around the Gold Coast. That will create more tourism for the Gold Coast.

A government member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I take that interjection—and it will support small business. The Commonwealth Games is something that we should be incredibly proud of, but all we hear is negativity from those opposite. It is about time that they got behind the most significant event that Queensland will see in living memory—the Commonwealth Games. We are already seeing a record number of volunteers, and I announced earlier today that we need 800 more people to get jobs on the Gold Coast. If we want to talk about the budget, it is about jobs, and there are 800 new jobs needed for the Commonwealth Games.

The comprehensive plan will be released later this month. I said that it would be released in June, and the ministers have given me a commitment that that will happen and I know that it will. Whilst I am on my feet I also want to thank all the members of Goldoc for everything they are doing in relation to delivering the best Commonwealth Games ever. It would be great to see a bit more bipartisan spirit when it comes to the significant games that will be held on the Gold Coast. The games will reach an audience of some 1.5 billion people, and that is nothing to shy away from.

Once again, we will be promoting everything there is about the Gold Coast and our wonderful state. The mayor was recently talking to me about a Commonwealth Games site that will be set up for trade representatives and visiting dignitaries. Commonwealth House will be set up on the Gold Coast so that people can talk about trade opportunities as well. I want to use the Commonwealth Games to also sell Queensland and our amazing export markets to the world. That will be a great opportunity for all of my ministers to be involved in. If the opposition want to be involved, we are happy to have them involved as well because we are taking the politics out of the Commonwealth Games.

Manufacturing

Ms LINARD: My question is to the Minister for State Development. Will the minister update the House on Palaszczuk government initiatives to grow jobs in Queensland's \$20 billion manufacturing sector?

Dr LYNHAM: I thank the member for Nudgee for her question. I know how proud she is of the 4,000 manufacturing businesses in her electorate of Nudgee. She is very proud of the business that created the harbour for the Commonwealth Games, Watkins Steel, which is a Nudgee business that

employs 59 people. I know that the member has been working tirelessly with them to grow their business with apprentices and trainees. To assist in that not only do we have Skilling Queenslanders for Work but also we now have the Back to Work program, which is assisting people in South-East Queensland, and let us not forget the workers compensation exemption for apprentices. Watkins Steel can expect a lot from this government and Watkins Steel can grow with this government.

In Queensland, manufacturing is a \$20 billion industry that employs 170,000 people. On this side of the House we care about advanced manufacturing, but for the three years that those opposite were in government we did not hear a thing about advanced manufacturing. As part of our commitment to advanced manufacturing, the Queensland government awarded the first Made in Queensland grants to two Toowoomba companies, which will allow those companies to implement innovative processes and technology. Recently I visited the two firms, Gessner Industries and Global Rotomoulding, which were awarded a \$104,000 grant and a \$72,000 grant respectively. As I said, those are the first two businesses to receive grants of between \$50,000 and \$2.5 million available under the \$20 million Made in Queensland program. The member for Nudgee can now take advantage of that program to advance her electorate: Made in Queensland and made in Nudgee.

That is just one of the innovative ways that the Queensland government is encouraging our state's manufacturers to expand, adapt and employ more Queenslanders in the jobs of the future through our Queensland Advanced Manufacturing 10-Year Roadmap and Action Plan. So far, more than 400 companies have registered interest in the Made in Queensland program and almost 200 have received free industry-leading benchmarking sessions to help them plan to improve and grow. Toowoomba is the location for next week's second design and manufacturing seminar, following on from the first one held recently in Mount Gravatt. Those seminars allow manufacturers to access the latest design tips and tricks to lower costs, bring products to market and be more competitive. More importantly, they help our manufacturing industry to grow and employ more and more Queenslanders.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Cook, I am informed that we have more students from the McDowall State School in the electorate of Everton observing our proceedings. Welcome.

Great Artesian Basin Sustainability Initiative

Mr GORDON: My question is to the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines. The government is investing \$4 million to continue Australia's major water-saving scheme, the Great Artesian Basin Sustainability Initiative. That scheme has invested more than \$187 million into bore repair, capping and piping works in this state. For the benefit of the House, could the minister please advise the science behind the water planning process taking place under his department and confirm when the government will be lifting the water moratorium that is destroying and putting undue hardship on small to medium businesses in the electorate of Cook?

Dr LYNHAM: I thank the member for Cook for his question. I understand there are two planning processes being undertaken at Cape York for water planning purposes. As the planning processes are underway it is important that we have a strict moratorium in place so that we can gather data, look at historical records and look at the water usage in that area. In that way, complete planning can be done to ascertain the water resource present and the water usage in Cape York.

There is no doubt that we want the agricultural sector and the resources sector to grow in Cape York, but they need water to do that and the water planning process is vital for that. It is not unusual that there is a moratorium under any area when a water planning process occurs and Cape York is no exception. We are quite proud of this government's Great Artesian Basin Sustainability Initiative program. We have been the drivers for the capping and piping program in the Great Artesian Basin. I remember when we had to drag the Abbott government kicking and screaming to support us in that capping and piping program, which has been very successful. In fact, some of the early caps are now starting to fail because of the increased pressure in the Great Artesian Basin as a result of the success of our program. We have to go back and recap them because of that increased pressure.

If we have the support of the federal government, which is a big 'if', we hope to have the Great Artesian Basin capping program completed by 2027. The Queensland government is right behind this. In fact, in the state budget report from AgForce, Grant Maudsley described 'the Natural Resources Minister's commitment of up to \$4 million towards the Great Artesian Basin Sustainability Initiative' as another positive step. This government cares about the regions in Queensland. This government cares about the agricultural sector in Queensland. We understand the importance of water in driving the agricultural sector in Queensland.

Skilling Queenslanders for Work

Mr STEWART: My question is to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills. Will the minister please advise the House about the success in engaging community organisations in the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program in regional Queensland and whether the minister is aware of any alternative approaches?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for Townsville for his question, for his ongoing commitment to jobs for his region and particularly for his support for the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative. While those on the other side and the Leader of the Opposition like to talk about the regions, it is the Palaszczuk government that is delivering for the regions. One great example is Skilling Queenslanders for Work and another is the Dream, Believe, Achieve program run by the North Queensland Cowboys Community Foundation. Since the reintroduction of SQW, that program has received \$406,300 to build strong community bonds with employers and achieve great outcomes, with 71 participants now out in the community in careers in areas such as rural operations, hospitality and customer engagement. Many of the Cowboys players often give up their free time to come in and speak to the participants, providing mentoring and encouraging people along their journeys.

Next month will be the five-year anniversary of when the LNP scrapped Skilling Queenslanders for Work. On 16 July 2012, the former employment minister, the member for Surfers Paradise, announced that Skilling Queenslanders for Work would be scrapped. He even acknowledged that he was expecting the Deloitte Access Economic report, which arrived on 23 July 2012. I table that report, just in case those on the other side never ended up reading the whole report.

Tabled paper: Deloitte Access Economics, Evaluation of Skilling Queenslanders for Work, Department of Education and Training and Employment, 23 July 2012 [\[993\]](#).

The report contains glowing comments about this particular initiative, and not just about the program returning \$7 for every \$1 invested. It also states—

Netting-off the costs from these benefit figures, the net present value of the direct benefits over 5, 10 and 40 years is \$740 million, \$2.2 billion and \$9.6 billion respectively.

That is money that could be provided back to the community. I am concerned about what we will hear this afternoon from the Leader of the Opposition in his budget reply speech. Will he rule out scrapping employment programs brought in by this government? Let us not forget that it was the former employment minister who said that it is the federal government's responsibility to provide employment support programs and not the state's.

When the member for Kawana and the Leader of the Opposition criticise our employment programs, the question that the Leader of the Opposition needs to answer is: will they scrap these employment programs in the future?

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Transport

Mr LANGBROEK: My question without notice is to the Premier, and I ask: Goldoc chair Peter Beattie has urged Queensland businesses to close and give their staff leave at the time of the games so that the roads are clear for games traffic. Is this not a vote of no confidence in the secret transport plan for the Commonwealth Games?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Surfers Paradise for that question. Once again it is good to see that everyone is working together for the Commonwealth Games. These issues will be discussed at length with the Minister for Commonwealth Games, the chair of Goldoc and the Mayor of the Gold Coast, Tom Tate. I am looking forward to seeing the Mayor of the Gold Coast, Tom Tate, when we govern from the Gold Coast in August this year.

Ms Jones: The member for Surfers Paradise has been offered a briefing.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I take that interjection. The Minister for Commonwealth Games is always happy to give you a briefing, member for Surfers Paradise. I know that she would love to sit down and give you a full briefing.

Whilst I am on my feet, I wanted to clarify my answer to an earlier question. The member for Southport said that his tweet should not have been read out of context and that it should be read in light of his Facebook post. I would like to read that out to the House for total accuracy. It says—

So much happening in Southport, here is a recent aerial photo (courtesy ... Ray White SP) of the Commonwealth Games Village taking shape on the Gold Coast. They are building a new wing for the Gold Coast Private Hospital in the top left; while on the top right, the Southport Sharks are working in conjunction with Mantra Group to build a 120-room hotel. On top of this we've just secured \$5 m for new classrooms and buildings at Southport Special School to the SW of the Village and work is ongoing with extension of the Light Rail to Helensvale and roadworks along Olsen Ave, Ferry Rd, High St, Bundall and Nerang Rds.

I thought I would update that for everyone just to put the Facebook post in context with the tweet. As you can see, the member for Southport is very thankful for our budget.

Budget, Fire and Emergency Services

Mr HARPER: My question is to the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services, and I ask: will the minister inform the House about the investment that has been made in the Palaszczuk government's budget to fund our Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, including job creation and building critical infrastructure?

Mr RYAN: I thank the member for his question and acknowledge his excitement about the budget yesterday, particularly in respect of the announcement concerning an additional 20 rapid action and patrol group officers going to Townsville. This is exciting for Townsville, and it reinforces our government's commitment to community safety not only in Townsville but across Queensland. The Palaszczuk Labor government is delivering for Queensland, particularly in the area of Fire and Emergency Services. In this year's budget we have seen a significant contribution to infrastructure and resources to support our urban fire and rescue, rural fire brigades and all of our emergency services volunteers and personnel. This continues our strong commitment to restoring front-line services and supporting our front-line personnel.

Our firefighters deserve the best, and they deserve the resources and tools that they need to keep Queenslanders safe. It is because of the strong economic management of our government that we can continue to fund and support our emergency services personnel right across Queensland. We cannot forget the Newman LNP years when they attacked our firefighters, underinvested in resources to support our firefighters and even went to sack rural fire support service officers. I am very proud that in this budget we will deliver 160 rural front-line yellow firefighting trucks over the next two years to support our rural firefighters. Over the same period we will see the urban firefighting fleet upgraded with new vehicles thanks to an investment of over \$36 million this year and \$31 million next year—almost \$70 million worth of new urban fire trucks over the next two years.

It means more than just supporting our firefighters with the resources that they need: it also means jobs, because these trucks are built in Queensland. They are built in places like Crows Nest, Sunshine Coast, Pinkenba and Narangba. I am advised that this program to replace our fire trucks over the next few years will support 85 people across those workplaces. This will mean more jobs for Queenslanders and of course it will support our firefighters and the good work that they do. We also have 24 QFES capital works projects being supported in this budget, which again supports local construction jobs and provides the resources and infrastructure our firefighters need. When it comes to supporting our emergency services, it is Labor that steps up every single time. We will always back them, not attack them. That is what Labor governments do.

Road Safety, M1

Ms BATES: My question without notice is to the Premier, and I ask: The trucking industry has proved that the government's idea for easing traffic pressure on the M1 by forcing heavy vehicles to only use the left lane will create significant safety issues, especially at merges and off ramps. Will the Premier now admit that this idea was a thought bubble and risks putting motorists in serious danger while they are trying to merge into a lane of heavy traffic at 100 kilometres per hour?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for that question. I am advised that the Queensland Trucking Association asked for this after speaking with the Minister for Main Roads.

Ms Jones: The *Gold Coast Bulletin* wants it all year round.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is my understanding, but let me say a few things. National and international experience has shown that, when trucks are restricted from the right lane on the motorway, traffic flows more smoothly, there are fewer crashes and there is minimal impact on freight efficiency. In the USA, truck lane restrictions have been implemented in South Carolina, where they resulted in a 76 per cent reduction in truck related crashes. In Texas, this initiative resulted in a 68 per cent reduction in all crashes. The Victorian government implemented truck lane restrictions on the M1 between Melbourne and Geelong in 2010, resulting in safety and capacity improvements. The restriction on trucks will come into effect from August 2017 and will continue after the games to reduce crashes on the M1.

I think this is good, sound policy. I think it has been warmly welcomed. I also think that many commuters who travel along the M1 will feel a lot safer when these new measures come on board. I thank the Minister for Main Roads and the Minister for the Commonwealth Games for working to bring about this great outcome, and I look forward to continuing to work and have a good constructive relationship with the Queensland Trucking Association in this state.

Budget, Local Government

Mr PEARCE: My question is to the Minister for Local Government and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, and I ask: will the minister advise the House of the reaction from Queensland local councils to the Palaszczuk government's 2017-18 budget?

Mr FURNER: I thank the member for Mirani for his keen interest in not only Queensland councils but also his region of Mirani. 'Happy campers—thrilled!' That was the response of Greg Hallam from the LGAQ after the Palaszczuk government's 2017-18 budget. 'Councils welcome state budget's local jobs boost', said an LGAQ media statement on Tuesday, and there is the LGAQ budget scorecard with six big green ticks. It says that there is an extra \$400 million for Queensland councils. It also says that Works for Queensland will receive additional funding of \$200 million over two years, and there is a big green tick for 6,000 jobs and kickstarting hundreds of infrastructure projects.

In every regional community I visit mayors tell me they love Works for Queensland. It means jobs and it means flexibility for councils to direct funds where they know they are needed the most. The Indigenous State Government Financial Aid program has had an additional \$14 million over four years in funding restored and indexed, which is another big green tick on the LGAQ scorecard. 'That rights an historical wrong', says Mr Hallam, after funding was cut by—guess who? The previous treasurer and now Leader of the Opposition, Tim Nicholls.

I come back to the scorecard. It shows another big green tick for \$120 million in water, sewerage and waste infrastructure for Indigenous councils. It shows a big green tick for road funding for councils, with an extra \$90 million confirmed. In the area of environment it shows a big green tick for \$2.5 million for a container refund scheme and \$5.2 million for pests and weeds. It shows another big green tick for \$10 million in infrastructure planning. Mr Hallam said—

All up, this is a Budget that is well-considered and well-targeted to helping those regional communities that need it the most.

I have checked the LGAQ reaction to previous budgets of the Newman-Nicholls government. It shows such a contrast. In September 2012 it said 'substantial pain for Queensland councils, with cuts in grants and road building programs'. In June 2013 its news release was headed 'Bare bones Queensland budget holds little meat for Queensland councils'. In June 2014 it said the budget was 'a mixed bag for local government', with more cuts.

Under those opposite, funding plummeted like a lead balloon. The Palaszczuk government has listened, as we always do. We are delivering thousands of jobs in regional Queensland and Indigenous communities. That is a big green tick for those who need it the most in our remote and Indigenous communities. I table the LGAQ scorecard.

Tabled paper: LGAQ Budget Scorecard [\[994\]](#).

Budget, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

Mr CRIPPS: My question without notice is to the Premier. Why has Labor delivered an underwhelming budget for farmers which has seen the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries budget cut by \$14 million?

Mr SPEAKER: The time for questions without notice has expired.

PRIVILEGE

Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House by a Member

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (11.31 am): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. The opposition has alleged that there has been a cut to the roads budget. That is not factual. No matter what might have happened last night, it does not necessarily make it true—

Mr SEENEY: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This is clearly not a matter of privilege; it is a matter of debate. A matter of privilege, by definition, is something that affects a member's privileges in the House. I ask you to sit the member down.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you. We have ample time to pursue that.

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Appropriation (Parliament) Bill resumed from 13 June (see p. 1548), Appropriation Bill resumed from 13 June (see p. 1560) and Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill resumed from 13 June (see p. 1562).

Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (11.32 am): I move—

That the bills be now read a second time.

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.32 am): Sadly, the 2017-18 budget is the culmination and confirmation of three years of a do-nothing Labor government. This is a budget that reveals no progress and foreshadows no future. Rather, it almost cruelly underscores in its empty rhetoric the many missed opportunities from a government that clearly was not ready to govern when it was elected—and still is not. In fact, the division in this Labor government—the infighting, the climbing over each other—only seems to have got worse. While an inexperienced Premier, a power hungry deputy leader and an inept 'Captain Risky' Treasurer are at war with themselves, Queenslanders have been stranded for three years—without leadership, without direction, without a clear plan.

The price of Labor's inaction and inexperience is immeasurably high. There is no retrieving the lost opportunities, no bandaiding Labor's infrastructure spending cuts. The job losses, the cost-of-living increases, the raids on public servants' superannuation and long service leave funds, the shovelling of debt on to the government owned corporations and the soft-on-crime approach that has put fright into regional Queenslanders: this Labor legacy of devastation is across-the-board and over the top.

We know that Queensland is stagnating and, with a government stuck in neutral, the community is crying out for leadership. Labor's softly-softly approach is failing Queenslanders. Doing nothing is not working. The economy is hurting, and badly. Families and businesses are paying more through higher taxes and rising living costs. Much needed infrastructure across Queensland is still, three years later, not being built.

Instead of leading the way in job creation and job security, we are falling behind the other states. This latest Labor budget confirms that debt will crash through the \$80 billion mark for the first time in the state's history, despite Labor's pre-election promises. Youth unemployment in some parts of Queensland is more than 20 per cent. Appallingly, it is almost 50 per cent in outback Queensland. Under Labor, business investment has plummeted by \$23 billion, meaning fewer jobs and less opportunity.

These are grave problems that need to be solved, yet the reason they are a problem and the reason Queensland continues to slip is that Labor under this Premier is too afraid to act. Hamstrung by the green threat to inner-Brisbane seats and paralysed by the sense of its own incompetency, this is a government that kicks every major decision into the long grass of reviews, inquiries and task forces—more than 200 of them to date.

The greatest risks Queenslanders face today are a lack of job security and another three years of a do-nothing Labor government. Queensland lost 30,000 jobs last year alone and, despite the natural advantages we enjoy in tourism, agriculture and resources and our creative talents, Queensland's economy is now ranked below Tasmania. The brutal reality is that Queensland's domestic economy is now \$6.5 billion smaller than when the LNP was in office.

I intend to use my time today to further detail this government's litany of failures, broken promises and hollow rhetoric—in essence, their do-nothingness. Importantly, I will also outline the LNP's real plan to build a better Queensland, to create jobs and diversify the economy and to provide cost-of-living relief.

Let me announce something straight off the bat. For two consecutive years this Premier and this Labor government have increased family car registration by 3.5 per cent. That is twice the inflation rate. In this their latest budget we discover they have slotted in a further two years of these hits. This Labor government is treating motorists like cash cows because the Premier and her Treasurer cannot sustainably manage the state's finances.

Labor's rego slug means that a four-cylinder family car now costs \$700 to register. That is a jump of \$50 in just two years. We just cannot build stronger families when they keep getting smashed with higher costs. Families cannot continue to pay more and more. I am announcing today that an LNP government I lead will freeze the cost of family car registration for three years. This rego freeze will save a Queensland family with two six-cylinder cars \$200 over three years. The LNP understands that every little bit helps, and this will return more money to tight family budgets. Queenslanders know that the LNP can deliver this because we have delivered it before. It is called action—in stark contrast to Labor.

Simply being in government is not good enough. Simply reviewing and not doing is not good enough. Simply collecting a ministerial salary while not making a decision is not good enough. It is cowardly and it lays bare one's inexperience. Governing is about courage—not stillness and, worse, sneakiness. It is about skill, not spin. It begins with listening to the concerns of our fellow Queenslanders and then it is about inspiration, good plans and hard work. It is about action that engenders confidence and hope—hope that we can build a better Queensland and hope that Queenslanders can recover and move on from the pervading do-nothing attitude of Labor and this Premier.

This will be my approach and that of my Liberal National Party shadow cabinet colleagues as we continue to roll out more great policies to build a better Queensland in the run-up to the next election. This is the last budget before that election and, predictably, even typically, we have seen a Labor government promise like there is no tomorrow, but no amount of promises can compensate for the cost to Queenslanders of this government's indecision and lack of vision.

The next election will not be about who can say the most outrageous thing or who can tell the biggest untruth in an effort to trick Queenslanders—at least not as far as my LNP team and I are concerned. The next election is all about Queenslanders. It will be about who has the best plan to build a better Queensland—a Queensland with more jobs; stronger families; lower crime rates; cost-of-living pressures contained; enhanced environmental protections; fair dinkum road, bridge and dam projects; a strong and stable business environment for the creation of jobs and personal wealth; and better government, not more government.

Nobody can ignore the recent shattering terrorism events at home and abroad, and so the question of security and the straight-talking answers it demands will also need to be addressed. There is no getting around this challenge. There is only facing it head-on and doing our best to fight back. Terrorism requires frank and fearless discussion. If we shrink from it, the problem will only get worse. I will have more to say on the threat of terrorism over coming weeks as we prioritise a safe and livable Queensland.

We know economies slow in the expectation of elections because businesses hold off investment decisions to see what might happen, and that is why I call on the Premier, with the election just around the corner, to inject certainty by naming the election date. Businesses and everyday Queenslanders deserve to know the timing. Many have expressed their frustration to me. The Queensland economy just cannot afford another Labor contraction, so, Premier, make a decision and publish the date of the election. Give Queenslanders and Queensland businesses the opportunity to plan with certainty so they can get on investing and creating jobs with the confidence from what is known.

I am the grandson of European and British migrants. On my father's side the heritage is Eastern European from a small village near the border of Bulgaria, Greece and Turkey and on my mother's side it is British from Yorkshire. Like so many Queenslanders, I originally came from Victoria. I was in the first great wave of southern migration to Queensland, and I am proud to be a part of that story. I moved here with my family when I was just 12. Mum and Dad bought a business in Brisbane—a car dealership. They saw opportunity: the opportunity to take a risk, educate their kids and build a better life for our family, and they saw the freedom to do that here in Queensland—a new frontier, a state not mired in rules and regulations and not held back by a big government with a do-nothing attitude, a state with low

taxes and a clear attitude of supporting individuals, recognising that it is the private sector that builds our economy and provides the jobs that make our future brighter and our state better, and they did that. Mum and Dad took risks. They worked hard. They put it all on the line.

They were successful, and not without setbacks, but ultimately with the rewards that came from the risk and hard work and enterprise that they showed. That was the environment in which I grew up and was shaped. I want Queensland to be that state of opportunity again because recently we have seen it drift and slip away. Too many rules have crept in that hinder our full potential, that have trampled the entrepreneurial spirit that encourages hard work, effort and risk taking. The Premier and her Labor government have managed to stifle enterprise while at the same time growing the bureaucracy and reach of government. It is costing more to deliver less. Things seem to take forever to get done. Whether it is building a highway or getting your driver's licence, the studies and reviews, the rules and regulations, the delays and red tape grow longer and thicker and nobody can tell you why.

My wife, Mary, and I have three kids and I want them, just as I do every Queensland kid, to have the same opportunities in life that were open to me, to many in this chamber and to the many millions of Queenslanders who have helped forge our great state. The reality today is that because of this Labor government thousands of young Queenslanders do not have financial security or the dignity of a job, and the most telling admission from Labor that it has failed our young people is its 'jobs bonanza' slogan. If it is a bonanza, by definition it is something sudden, unplanned and unforeseen. It is something from nothing and, in the case of this Labor government, three years of nothing. A jobs bonanza is just the sort of rhetoric you desperately grab at when you have a jobs crisis and a lack of opportunity. It is typical Labor spin—the hyperbole of self-interest and political survival—and Queenslanders can see right through it.

Those 30,000 jobs that disappeared from Queensland last year under this Premier and this Labor government were in fact the worst job losses in Queensland's history. Under this Premier and her Labor government, Queensland is battling South Australia for last place in the jobless stakes, meaning more and more Queenslanders are being left behind. Since Labor's election, almost 15,000 jobs for young Queenslanders have disappeared. In outback Queensland, the youth unemployment rate has hit 48 per cent and in major regional centres such as Townsville, Cairns and Wide Bay it is higher than 20 per cent. Under this Premier and her Labor government, Townsville's unemployment rate recently peaked at a record high. Queensland has had more business related bankruptcies than any other state every single quarter since Labor's election and this Labor government has failed to deliver infrastructure, investing less than any other Queensland government in living memory.

The Premier and her Labor government have increased taxes, debt and red tape all the while slashing infrastructure funding. Under this Labor government services are worse, not better. Ambulance ramping is back, the child safety system is in crisis and Queensland's worst rail fail continues. The trains do not run on time and, anyway, there are not enough drivers to drive them! Violent crime has increased, the bikies are back after Labor's ideologically driven move to dismantle the LNP's criminal gang laws—the most effective in the country—and under this Premier and this Labor government electricity costs are spiralling out of control. There is a lot to take in, but that is the scale of wreckage that has washed up on Labor's brittle bedrock of broken promises.

Let us run through a few examples of that broken trust. The Premier went to the last election promising economic health to the extent of paying down \$5.4 billion of debt over six years, but what has she done? She has increased debt by \$6 billion. The Premier went to the last election promising to target full funding of long-term liabilities such as public servants' superannuation, but what has she done? Ignored recommendations from the State Actuary and risked Queenslanders' futures by raiding billions of dollars of public servants' superannuation to prop up her Labor government's ailing accounts. The Premier went to the last election promising to establish a debt reduction trust, but what do we see? No debt reduction trust, no quarantining of dividends from government owned corporations.

The Premier went to the last election promising a cost-benefit analysis and assessment of value for money prior to any project approval and that this cost-benefit analysis would not be hidden from public scrutiny and that this value-for-money assessment would be released for public consultation, but how have the Premier and her Labor government behaved? For 12 months, after hiding the business case, Labor has been embarrassed into the promise of releasing a redacted version. Indeed, the Premier went to the last election promising honesty, openness and transparency, but the Premier has shown her true colours and truth is the casualty. After a series of withheld, redacted or diluted government ordered reports and reviews, this much is clear: if it is controversial, if it is hard, embarrassing or highlights this Labor government's maladministration, they simply cover it up.

Under this Premier, we have seen a government sneak in compulsory preferential voting laws that fundamentally change the way Queenslanders vote with no consultation and only 18 minutes notice. Even the Premier's own cabinet did not know about it. There is an insidious pattern appearing here. The Premier and her Labor government patently believe that self-interest and political survival override the interests of Queenslanders and Queenslanders' right to know. Quite frankly, it is a disgrace.

One issue that seems to consume those opposite is asset sales. So here today I want every Queenslanders to know exactly where I and my LNP team stand. Let me make it very clear: we will not sell government owned corporations. I am ruling out asset sales, or leases, and drawing a line under the issue once and for all. Let me say it again: the LNP government will not sell assets. The public has made its view very clear and I have listened. We took a plan to the last election to repay debt, help with the cost of living and boost infrastructure spending through asset leasing, but that plan, to borrow a phrase, is dead, buried and cremated.

But wait: the scare campaign from Labor will still come. We saw it in the recent federal election campaign with the utter fallacy of 'Mediscare'. After three years of delivering nothing for Queenslanders, a desperate and morally bankrupt Labor is going to use the politics of fear to try to muddy the waters all over again. That is all it has. To my fellow Queenslanders I say: rest assured, just like 'Mediscare', any such campaign will be false, dishonest and a cold-blooded untruth. It will be yet another indictment on this Premier and her do-nothing Labor government.

Let us be clear: it was Queensland Labor that sold Queensland Rail while this Premier was a minister, it was Queensland Labor that sold the Port of Brisbane and it was Queensland Labor that sold the Forestry Plantations Queensland. I simply repeat: clearly and unmistakably, we took a plan to the last election and it was rejected. I have listened and we will not be going back. An LNP government will not sell assets.

Those opposite and some of their friends in the big unions also seem to be fixated with our plans for the Public Service. I welcome their interest and comprehension of our clear position. Let me make that position very clear: there will be no forced redundancies. Unless, like every other workplace, people voluntarily decide to leave the Public Service, everybody who is a public servant will keep their job. Just so we are all clear, let me say it again: there will be no forced redundancies.

Building a better Queensland means delivering outcomes, not outputs for the people of Queensland. To do that we need all hands on deck. We will focus on a Public Service of excellence, one measured by outcomes and service delivery, not volumes of paperwork and mind-numbing restrictive practices. The hardworking men and women of the Public Service know that they play a crucial role in the delivery of key outcomes and that the Public Service is exactly what it says: service to the public. It is not a warehouse for, or a monument to, public servants but a means to serve the public.

Just like asset sales, this Labor government, led by a Premier who cannot and will not run on her record, will try to focus on the past. That is because Labor has no record to run on, so I expect in regard to Queensland's Public Service another fake scare campaign from Labor—perhaps the mother of all Labor scare campaigns; 'Mediscare' on steroids—but it will be a campaign with no context, a campaign not based on fact or truth, a campaign conveniently absorbed in the past and deliberately evasive on the future.

I have acknowledged our previous mistakes in government; namely, doing too much, too quickly, and without explaining properly and taking the Queensland people with us. I have learned from our mistakes. Our task was enormous: after 20 years of Labor repairing the state's finances and service delivery while at the same time living within our means. We tackled head-on the after-effects of Cyclone Yasi, together with Cyclone Oswald and their damages bills. We were witness to the end of the mining boom and the end of the construction phase of CSG to LNG and revenue collapsed by \$5.4 billion over three years.

Despite those challenging economic hits, we made decisions and we achieved. We boosted services and we targeted specific problems, such as the dental long waitlist, and we fixed them. On top of that, we delivered \$868 million to fund the NDIS. We finalised the \$1.6 million Toowoomba Second Range Crossing project, generating 1,800 new jobs. We started the \$3 billion Queen's Wharf project—a world-class integrated resort development creating 10,000 new jobs. We built or planned 11 new schools. We launched a 10-year \$10 billion Bruce Highway Action Plan. We established the \$1.1 billion Gateway Upgrade North Project, and we delivered more than \$700 million of infrastructure through our

Royalties for the Regions program. We put 1,100 more police on the beat, 1,100 more nurses into hospitals and 761 more teachers and teacher aides into our schools. We developed a 35-year plan with the Commonwealth government to protect and manage the Great Barrier Reef.

After just two years of the former LNP government, Queenslanders were waiting less time for ambulances and less time in emergency departments. We developed and delivered the \$131 million Great Results Guarantee, providing real needs based funding for state schools focused on increasing literacy and numeracy standards. We created the \$300 million Fixing our Schools Fund to clear the school maintenance backlog that was shamelessly left behind by Labor. The list is a testimony to action and activity pitted against this Labor government's blank canvas of indecision and lost opportunity.

The 2017-18 budget has certainly continued the tradition of overpromising and underdelivering from the Premier and her Treasurer, only this time the Treasurer has been conspicuously missing in action. He has done a runner. He cannot look Queenslanders in the eye. Let me tell him that we love him being here. He has done a runner and he cannot look Queenslanders in the eye because this budget—Labor's third and last chance to get it right—instead strikes a new low. It is a swindle and a con.

This budget delivers the opposite of what the Premier, the Treasurer and her ministers promised. Queenslanders were told that they would get a jobs bonanza, but employment is forecast to be lower and the unemployment rate is going to be high for longer. The cut to employment growth between this budget and the government's last budget represents more than 80,000 fewer jobs. That is right: 80,000 fewer jobs. The simple fact is that these 80,000 jobs are not being created because this government does not have an economic strategy—nothing.

For three years this Labor government has failed to invest in the infrastructure Queensland needs. Of the funding it did say it would invest, it has failed to deliver \$3.7 billion of it. This paucity of a plan is reflected throughout the budget papers. It is seen in the continued decline in private investment; it is seen in the dramatic fall in business investment; it is seen, most tellingly, in the downward revisions in payroll tax—a direct result of the lacklustre employment growth under this Premier and her Labor government; and it is seen in the persistently weak wages growth.

Those members opposite, the ones who have bothered to try to argue some sort of positive case from this rotten set of numbers, invariably pass over temporary factors, including a massive uptick on coal royalties and the timing of payments from the federal government. But when luck abates and these temporary factors disappear Labor's true mismanagement is laid bare. We are left with wafer-thin operating surpluses predicated on overly optimistic revenue growth and fiscal deficits for as far as the eye can see, totalling more than \$11 billion.

Debt is climbing to new realms—a record high of \$81.1 billion. That means Labor's debt for every Queensland man, woman and child is almost \$16,000. Again, these debt projections would be grimmer if not for Labor's flimsy expectation that it will suddenly be able to put a lid on expenses growth and employee expenses growth after significantly missing its previous budget targets. This is an important point, because this expenses growth is largely locked in while revenue growth depends on a range of external factors. If Queensland does not see the revenue increases these budget papers project, Labor's deficits will get larger and debt will swell even more. This government has finally run out of hollow logs to raid. There are no more rabbits to pull from the hat for this Treasurer. There is only the shuffling of debt from one credit card to the other.

Standing here a year ago, I said of the then Labor government budget, 'As a blueprint for the future, it's a miserable failure.' Is it any wonder that with that sort of groundwork this year's budget is a fraud and a flop? We all know Labor, unable to prudently manage the economy, is addicted to bludgeoning Queenslanders with higher fees, taxes and charges. Last year I again noted the propensity of Labor treasurers to deftly trouser the hard-earned money of the taxpayer. In this budget we see once again Labor playing perfectly to type: taking, taking and taking again, whether it be higher car registration, higher water charges or higher electricity costs—where, in a money merry-go-round to partly pay for his government's failed energy policies, the Treasurer has just ripped hundreds of millions of dollars from the pockets of hardworking Queenslanders.

In early March I addressed the Queensland Media Club and set out my vision for Queensland and the five priorities of a future Liberal National Party government. Only a Liberal National Party government that I lead will build a better Queensland. The LNP's plan will create jobs, support small

business, invest in education to raise standards and we will provide better services for families and retirees. We will restore business confidence and get investment flowing to create jobs everywhere in Queensland.

An LNP government will reduce the risk to our economic security by focusing on six key drivers to create jobs and diversify the Queensland economy. The six drivers are: tourism; agriculture; resources; construction and manufacturing; services, science and technology; and education. Without a strong economy governments cannot provide better services in our hospitals, a better education system for our children or invest in new technology and equipment to help police provide safe and livable communities.

An economy cannot grow if it is weighed down by high costs. One of the biggest costs is electricity. We will make sure that Queensland's energy security is not put at risk and that we do not end up like South Australia with blackouts and industry shutting up shop. A 50 per cent renewable energy target in Queensland will mean higher prices and we will not stand for it. I will not stand for it. Labor's latest so-called energy plan is nothing more than a billion dollar hoax. It means power prices will continue to rise due to rising generation costs.

My team and I have been travelling the length and breadth of the state listening to Queenslanders. We have heard countless stories about missed opportunities. We have heard time and again how most Queenslanders feel that this government is actually working against them, not for them. Perhaps most disappointing of all we have met good young people, many of them who just cannot find a job. Our Get Queensland Working plan will provide up to 20,000 jobs for young Queenslanders, reduce expenses for apprentices and incentivise businesses to train and retain young jobseekers. Unlike Labor's poor copy, our Get Queensland Working plan has always applied to the entire state, not just select regions. We will not deny any young Queenslanders the opportunity for a job on the basis of where they live. The latest national training data released just last week shows 58,100 fewer Queenslanders are in training now compared to 2014. There are more than 10,000 fewer apprenticeship completions under Labor than was the case under the LNP and there are 3,800 fewer training commencements as well.

With our Get Queensland Working plan, an LNP government I lead will provide a \$5,000 incentive for Queensland businesses to take on a new apprentice from start to finish. We will give new tradies a helping hand in the form of a \$500 voucher to buy the tools they need to get working. Small businesses, which we believe in—the engine room of the Queensland economy—will get \$4,000 grants over 12 months to assist with recruitment and start-up costs for eligible young Queenslanders who are unemployed and not enrolled in full-time education or training. To keep these Queenslanders working we will incentivise employers by allowing them to deduct those workers' wages as part of the next year's WorkCover premium calculation.

We want the government to work with Queenslanders to build a better Queensland. That is why our Public Service of Excellence policy will ensure we have the best public service in the nation. It will include a Leaders of Tomorrow program and I will set a 10-year target to increase the proportion of women in senior leadership roles to 50 per cent.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for Education, I would urge you to control your comments or you will be warned. It is the Leader of the Opposition's chance to respond to the budget.

Mr NICHOLLS: It will include a Leaders of Tomorrow program and I will set a 10-year target to increase the proportion of women in senior leadership roles to 50 per cent based on merit and double the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in senior leadership roles.

Governments should support businesses and industry, not punish them. Red-tape reduction is a key part of our plan for better government, not more government. The regulatory burden under this government is heavy and pervasive and the ultimate price is fewer jobs. The LNP will set a target to cut red tape by 20 per cent over six years. We will work on reducing not only the cost and complexity of regulation but also the time consumed tying up valuable staff and wages in red tape. It will bring relief to the bottom line, allowing businesses to free their arms, grow and employ more Queenslanders. Under the LNP, this House will also have an annual red tape repeal day to remove unnecessary and archaic regulations from the statute books. We need to develop a culture of government facilitating business and industry, not controlling or constraining it.

The LNP will overhaul this government's failed market-led proposal framework where more than 99 per cent of projects have been delayed or rejected. Queenslanders are missing out on jobs and opportunities because Labor is too unwilling or unwitting to work with the private sector. After more than two years, the only market-led proposal approved by Labor is a toll road expansion—hardly the innovation Queenslanders are seeking. The LNP has already announced its first market-led proposal, the Brisbane education and entertainment precinct—a bold, \$2.5 billion plan that will deliver up to 8,000 jobs.

Only the LNP will give business the opportunity to help us to build a better Queensland. Unlike this Labor government, we will deliver our new deal for regional Queensland. I have spoken much about the neglect of regional Queensland under this Premier and her Labor government. The LNP is the only political party that has a plan for all of Queensland. Our new deal to build a better future for regional Queensland is all about creating jobs and delivering much needed infrastructure.

We will grant priority project status to a new, economically viable, low-emission, ultra-supercritical coal-fired power station in North Queensland. In turn, affordable, reliable base load energy will be a catalyst for new industries and business opportunities. The LNP will implement a new 10-year action plan to continue to improve the Bruce Highway, following on from our first 10-year action plan to improve the Bruce Highway. Labor does not have a plan for the Bruce—that great, economic artery of Queensland. We did before and we will again.

We will deliver a plan to provide ongoing support for our resources industry, particularly coal jobs in Central Queensland. Coal is not a dirty word for members of the LNP. We know and understand the resource that powers most of the Queensland economy. Our new deal will also ensure we build new infrastructure, including dams to provide water security and job-creating agricultural projects. New dams will provide economic security for our regions and boost agricultural productivity.

To ensure regional Queensland gets its fair share, the LNP will implement a \$500 million ramped-up Royalties for Regions infrastructure program. We have seen the value of Royalties for the Regions in the past and that is why we are going to bring it back. Regional Queenslanders are desperate for it—in fact, most Queenslanders strongly support this highly successful program that Labor cruelly gutted.

I will finish where I started. Labor's budgets have delivered larger fiscal deficits. Labor's budgets have delivered higher taxes for all Queenslanders. Labor's budgets have delivered cuts to vital spending on roads, rail, dams and bridges. Labor's budgets have delivered more reviews, investigations and reports, along with a rapidly escalating Public Service. Labor's budgets have delivered more waste and bureaucracy, not better services. Labor's budgets have delivered declining economic growth and increasing job losses. Labor's budgets have delivered raids, rip-offs and one-off sugar hits. Labor's budgets have robbed Queenslanders of their birthright—and that is opportunity.

At the next election Queenslanders will have a very clear choice. They can support an inexperienced Labor government with no plans to build a better Queensland or they can back a team that will listen, plan and act to build a better Queensland. That is the Liberal National Party and that is the party I am proud to lead.

Queenslanders also have before them another choice—a choice with serious consequences. A vote for a minor party will only lead to a Labor government's election, just as it has in Western Australia and just like it did here in Queensland in 1998 and 2001. We all know what happened after 1998, 2001 and beyond, as Queensland's Labor governments approached 20 years in office. We saw \$1.2 billion wasted on the Health payroll system with no ministerial accountability despite their crocodile tears. We saw \$9 billion wasted on the SEQ water grid, driving up the price of bulk water by more than 340 per cent. We even saw \$20,000 garden gnomes being purchased by those opposite and 1,500 buy-local T-shirts that were made in Bangladesh.

Labor failures have sacrificed opportunities to build new hospitals, to build the dams we need, to duplicate the Bruce Highway, to keep a lid on the cost of living, to build a better Queensland. Voting for a minor party has one critical ramification—that is, the election of yet another wasteful do-nothing Labor government. I simply ask Queenslanders: can you afford another three years of Labor? Let me again make it clear: there will be no deal with One Nation, no shared ministry and no coalition.

I pledge to lead a common-sense government—a government for Queensland people, not big unions or big business; a government which is straight with the people of Queensland. I will not be taking my riding instructions from a union or from Canberra, for that matter. I pledge to put Queensland first. I pledge to put Queenslanders first. I know that with their vote Queenslanders can make an investment. I say to them: elect an LNP government and you will get a positive return for many years to come.

Coming from a small business background, my parents instilled in me the importance of hard work and dedication. I have the great privilege of serving the locals in my area, be they from Hendra, Pinkenba, Woolloowin, Albion, Windsor, Lutwyche, Gordon Park and all the other suburbs in the Clayfield electorate. I pledge to continue to serve the people of Clayfield and if I am fortunate enough to be chosen as Queensland's next Premier I will bring the same passion, vigour and community service to making the lives of all Queenslanders better.

I love Queensland and I want to build a better Queensland, today and for generations of Queenslanders to come. I simply say to all Queenslanders: together, let us build a better Queensland.

Interruption.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Incorporation of Material

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Members, in accordance with previous practice, I advise that for debate on the appropriation bills, which will take place this week, members may, by leave of the House, incorporate a portion of their speech in the second reading debate. However, the following rules must be followed. The member's total speech must not exceed that which would normally be allowed in a 20-minute speech, thus no speech should exceed 3,500 words. Speeches should not include graphs, charts or other material. Members must provide Hansard with their speech in electronic form, preferably prior to rising to give their speech, and provide a hard copy to the parliamentary chamber attendants. Other members will be provided access on request to a member's speech prior to the publication of the *Record of Proceedings*. All speeches must be shown to me as Speaker or the deputy speakers prior to leave being sought for incorporation. Speeches intended to be incorporated should not offend the standing orders in any way, such as by containing personal reflections or imputations et cetera.

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Resumed.

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (12.18 pm): Before the Leader of the Opposition dashes away, I would like to encourage him to remain in his seat, to stay in the House and hear the truth he would prefer to be kept hidden from the people of Queensland—the truth that he wants to airbrush away. The Leader of the Opposition has finally confounded the critics. All of those people who thought he could not possibly deliver a budget reply speech as uninspiring as his leadership have been proven absolutely dead wrong.

I must admit that I may have misled the parliament. Yesterday I said that the performance by the opposition was the most woeful performance by an opposition in response to a budget in living history. I was wrong; that happened today. In question time today we did not get one question from the Leader of the Opposition to the Premier or to the frontbench on the Queensland budget—not one question from the Leader of the Opposition. That has not happened in living memory.

What a flat, dreary, lifeless and ultimately whining response it was from the member for Clayfield—short on detail, devoid of vision, empty of hope for our state. It is, without question, the weakest budget response in the recent history of this parliament—the reflections of a weak leader with no plan, no purpose and no idea. No wonder the Leader of the Opposition wants an election date because he is desperate to hang on to his leadership.

The Leader of the Opposition giving up asset sales is like Donald Trump giving up Twitter. Who did he quote when he said asset sales were going to go? He quoted the worst Liberal National Party prime minister in recent history—Tony Abbott. So bad was Tony Abbott that he was removed by his own party. He was sacked by his own party from the prime ministership of this nation. What else did Tony Abbott say? There would be no cuts to education, no cuts to health, no change to pensions, no change to the GST and no cuts to the ABC or SBS—all of which he broke or sought to break as prime

minister. Tony Abbott is not the person Tim Nicholls should be quoting in this parliament. That promise is as weak as Tony Abbott's promise. No-one believes him. What did he say his final plan was? What did his final plan say to the people of Queensland? It said no asset sales. What did he do? He spent \$100 million trying to con the Queensland people. I table the front page of the Strong Choices plan.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Final Plan—The Strongest and Smartest Choice—Queensland's plan for secure finances and a strong economy' [995].

Queenslanders know the truth about the Leader of the Opposition. They know the truth. What happened under his leadership of this state? Unemployment went up, not just up but up to an 11-year high. Electricity prices went up, not just up but up by 43 per cent. Waiting lists went up—100,000 people left waiting in the waiting room of hospitals. They could not get a specialist appointment. Waiting lists have been cut by 50 per cent since Labor came to power. Infrastructure was cut by \$1.65 billion in the first Nicholls budget. Ramping doubled in hospitals. Ramping doubled when they removed the Metropolitan Emergency Department Access Initiative. They removed that direction and ramping doubled. I will not be lectured as health minister by the opposition in relation to ramping.

It was a government that characterised itself by untruths. Remember when they said no public servant would have anything to fear from them? They sacked 14,000 public servants. They signed a contract with Queensland. The Leader of the Opposition is a lawyer. The people of Queensland should have sued on that contract. They signed a contract with Queensland and as soon as they got into government they tore it up. He said they wanted better government, not more government. When the LNP say they do not want more government, what does that mean? They want to cut the Public Service. That is what they want to do. He talks about the dignity of work. He had no respect for the dignity of the 14,000 workers their government took relish in sacking from the Public Service in Queensland. They did it without dignity. The then premier said he had to get out the pooper scooper. What a way to treat public servants! Public servants and the people of Queensland will not forget.

One of the Leader of the Opposition's favourite mantras over the past two years has been his limp rhetoric on debt. Nothing reveals the confused and chaotic nature of his leadership than his tangled performance, first as treasurer and now as opposition leader, on the issue of the state's finances and debt. Indeed, in his final budget, he boasted that his silky fiscal skills would see total debt in the government sector stabilise at \$82 billion, having supervised its increase from \$62 billion when he came to office to \$77 billion when he made that bold announcement. One can only imagine his excitement when he heard the Treasurer's announcement that debt was down in Queensland thanks to the effective management of the public finances of this state by Queensland Labor.

What a contrast this mewling opposition makes with the Palaszczuk government and its strong recipe for a brighter future outlined in the 2017-18 budget. It is a budget for all Queenslanders—a budget that will drive up jobs and investment, that will drive down the cost of living, that will build critical infrastructure like the overdue Cross River Rail. What did we hear today from the opposition leader, the man who wants to be the premier of this state? What did we hear about Cross River Rail? We heard absolutely nothing. He did not say one word about the single biggest capital infrastructure project in this budget. The question that needs to be asked of the Leader of the Opposition is: will he cut or will he commit? Will he cut Cross River Rail or will he commit? I invite him to adopt position No. 11 and support the delivery of Cross River Rail.

This is a budget that delivers for schools, for teachers, for students and their parents—a budget that allocates \$28 million from the \$500 million Building Future Schools Fund to address enrolment growth, \$250 million for new secondary school classrooms and 230 more teachers to be employed in 2018-19. It is a familiar story. The LNP government cut front-line services. In this, and in every budget since it was elected, the Palaszczuk government has set out to rebuild and strengthen the front line.

It is a budget that delivers for jobs, with an investment of \$100 million in the Back to Work Regional Employment Package, which will generate thousands of jobs. Let us compare the two parties and the two governments. That is what the people of Queensland will do at the next election. In trend terms over the 28 months since 2015, 69,300 jobs have been created in Queensland, created by the Palaszczuk Labor government. LNP jobs growth under their whole term in government was 28,100. More than twice as many jobs have been generated by the Palaszczuk government than by the Newman LNP government in which the Leader of the Opposition served as treasurer. Unemployment is now down to 6.3 per cent in trend terms—lower than the 6.6 per cent under the LNP.

This budget is a budget that delivers for social housing, with \$1.8 billion over 10 years to deliver a substantial increase in the construction and availability of housing to help vulnerable Queenslanders who are struggling to put a roof over their heads. I say this much representing the electorate of

Woodridge: you will never hear the LNP talk about public housing, Madam Deputy Speaker, because they spend their time demonising and criticising people who deserve the most basic right in our community—a roof over their head. We only have to look at their legacy when they were in government, when they said if you wanted to be away from your home for four weeks you needed to get leave—you needed to get permission from the government to leave your home.

Mr Hinchliffe: What a disgrace.

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from the member for Sandgate, the Leader of the House. It was an utter disgrace to treat hardworking, decent Queenslanders in the way the LNP did, and they will do it again if they ever have the chance to get back onto the treasury bench. How different from the Leader of the Opposition when we are delivering for all of Queensland, when we are delivering for regional and rural communities—building the hospitals ignored and neglected by the LNP for decades. We are rebuilding Kingaroy Hospital, rebuilding Blackall Hospital and building new clinics at Alpha, Aramac, Dimbulah and across the state. Being a champion for the regions means more than knocking back a few in the local pub in the front bar, dressed up in the latest rustic chic from the emporium for urban spivs. The 2017-18 budget is a budget that delivers for law enforcement; that delivers for the environment; that delivers for the Commonwealth Games, a signature project for Labor; that delivers for transport, for infrastructure, for tourism and for agriculture, and it is a budget that I am proud to say delivers for health.

Our health system is the greatest monument we have to our values. When we invest in health we are investing in the wellbeing of each individual, making a declaration about their worth, about their importance and about their rights. It is a clear articulation of the civilising ideal of fairness the Australian Labor Party expresses through the services we deliver. This year's budget allocates a record \$16.55 billion to the health system, an increase of \$1.28 billion or 8.4 per cent on last year's budget—a staggering increase of 21.5 per cent on the final budget delivered by the member for Clayfield when he was the state's treasurer.

Our commitment, as always, is to the front line, which is why we are allocating almost \$14 billion to our hospital and health services, which are the authorities responsible for delivering health services in Queensland. That represents 84 per cent of the total budget, significantly higher than the 80.8 per cent that the HHSs received in the final budget of the previous government. While they were worried about spin doctors and administrators, we are worried about the doctors, nurses, allied health professionals and paramedics because we are funding the front line. A record 84 per cent is going to our hospital and health services, not 80 per cent which the member for Southern Downs funded our hospital and health services with from the budget.

I have spoken frequently in this House about the great achievements of this government in driving down the number of Queenslanders waiting longer than clinically recommended for a specialist outpatient appointment. They were the people whom the member for Clayfield and the member for Southern Downs were happy to leave sitting in the waiting room, with the doctor never taking the appointment. They were happy to put outpatient appointments on the never-never.

A government member interjected.

Mr DICK: I take the interjection. It was a shame. They were happy to let Queenslanders needing specialist treatment languish on a waiting list for the waiting list.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Member for Southern Downs, the minister is not taking your interjections.

Mr DICK: Because of our \$361.2 million investment over four years, that list has fallen from 104,114 when we came to office to 50,033—a decrease of 52 per cent. I am pleased to advise the House that this year another \$126.5 million of that funding will be invested to drive even further improvements.

We are also meeting our elective surgery targets across-the-board, with 97.3 per cent of patients being treated within clinically recommended times. Our target for category 2 is 95 per cent. Our category 3 target is 95 per cent, but we are meeting our elective surgery targets with 97.3 per cent of patients being treated within clinically recommended times. These are singular achievements and ones attained despite the considerable pressure being placed on our system by rising demand. Outpatient referrals, for example, are rising at a rate of around 10 per cent a year, but we have still halved the list.

Rising demand is also putting considerable pressure on our emergency departments, with presentations increasing at around 50,000 a year. Despite this growth our emergency access target in 2016-17 was 76 per cent—equal to the best result ever achieved by the LNP when in government, notwithstanding that we are facing 50,000 more presentations at our hospitals each year. That demonstrates the funding commitment and the magnificent work done by our staff in emergency departments to ensure our emergency access target stands at 76 per cent.

On our side of the House we recognise that if you want to build a better health system you invest in nurses. Our government passed the historic nurse-to-patient ratio legislation in this House, and that was opposed by each and every member of the LNP. They did not seek to amend it.

Mr Kelly: Shame.

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from the member for Greenslopes. It was a shame. They did not seek to amend it. They did not seek to modify it. They voted against it. They opposed it outright—a singular sign of how they oppose the important role of nursing in our state's public health system. Through legislating safe nurse-to-patient ratios, reinstating the school-age nursing program and rolling out nurse navigators, we are rebuilding the front line when it comes to nursing. In 2017-18, 199 nurse navigators will join the 121 already working in our community.

This budget continues to deliver on the infrastructure we need for all Queenslanders but most particularly those people living in regional Queensland who were so egregiously neglected by those opposite, the LNP, who have the temerity to come into this House to pretend they represent the interests of people whom they have taken for granted for decades. The LNP has held the seat of Warrego for decade after decade. We are the government that rebuilt Roma Hospital, last built by our Labor government. The LNP has held seats in which the town of Blackall sits for decades. We are the government rebuilding that hospital—the first government to rebuild it since 1938 when the then Labor government built that hospital. The first Kingaroy Hospital was built in 1938. The heartland of the National Party was ignored by them in government and ignored for decades. It is the Australian Labor Party that will build a new hospital—a \$62 million hospital for Kingaroy.

Mr Pearce interjected.

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from the member for Mirani. It is the Australian Labor Party that will build a new hospital in Sarina—\$16 million to support our hardworking staff in that part of the state. We are a Labor government that delivers for all Queenslanders wherever they live. As I have said, the Palaszczuk government has already commissioned, commenced or completed projects in Alpha, Aramac, Cloncurry, Dimbulah and Roma. This year's budget builds on that work, as I have said, by announcing funding for the redevelopment of Kingaroy, Blackall and Sarina hospitals as well as making significant investments in Maryborough Hospital—and I thank the member for Maryborough for his strong advocacy for that program to expand and improve the emergency department—and Townsville Hospital.

All of the great regional hospitals in our state—Cairns, Townsville and Mackay—were rebuilt by the Australian Labor Party. All the big metropolitan hospitals in the south-east were rebuilt by the Australian Labor Party. We have now committed to expanding three of our big metropolitan hospitals in the south-east—the Ipswich Hospital; the Caboolture Hospital, which will get a \$15 million investment to expand its emergency department; and the Logan Hospital, a hospital very close to my heart. It is under significant pressure because nothing was done by the LNP for three years in terms of capital works. I must acknowledge, though, the work of the federal Labor government that expanded that hospital. There is nothing in the federal budget this year to invest in health infrastructure in our state, but we will do our bit as a state Labor government to expand that hospital. It is one that serves some of the most needy people in our state who are dependent on public health services—people who live in Woodridge, Waterford, Springwood, Algester and other parts of the city of Logan in the seat of Logan itself. We will support those people who need better health care by expanding that hospital. We will invest \$112.2 million for planning and preparatory works to expand those three hospitals.

We are building a new tier 3 accommodation facility to replace the Barrett centre that was closed with such disastrous effects by the previous government. They were warned. There was no mention of the closing of the Barrett Adolescent Centre today by the Leader of the Opposition. There was no apology.

Ms Fentiman: No mention of mental health.

Mr DICK: I take the interjection of the member for Waterford. There was no mention of mental health. There was no mention of the catastrophic effects of his government's decision to close that very important facility without replacement.

Mr Costigan interjected.

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from the member for Whitsunday, even though he is not sitting in his seat. There is only one government that sought to cut the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme and that was the LNP. Why? Because it was recommended by Peter Costello in the Commission of Audit. It was recommended to cut the PTSS, and that recommendation was accepted in the government response. Notwithstanding the dishonesty of the member for Surfers Paradise saying in public last week that funding had been cut by Labor, funding has increased by 10 per cent under the Labor government for the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme. We cannot believe anything the LNP says. What we saw today from the Leader of the Opposition was a complete demonstration of why he is unfit to be the Premier of Queensland.

Ms Fentiman: Loose with the truth.

A government member interjected.

Mr DICK: I take the interjections of the member for Waterford and the minister. They are loose with the truth. They will say anything and do anything to achieve government. Queenslanders do not have to hear what they say; they only have to look at what they did when they were in government. If they ever have the chance again, they would do exactly the same. Members opposite have self-described themselves as 'health friends'. With friends like that, you do not need enemies. This is an important budget. It is a budget that delivers for all parts of our state. It is a budget that delivers for a growing state—a state that is one of the engines of our nation—and it should be supported by all members of the House.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Before I call the member for Indooroopilly, I would like to welcome to the gallery students from McDowall State School in the electorate of Everton.

 **Mr EMERSON** (Indooroopilly—LNP) (12.39 pm): The Treasurer has finally completed his trifecta—a third budget of broken promises, a third flop, a third fizzer. Like the first two Palaszczuk government budgets, this one fails to deliver a brighter future for Queensland, it fails to deliver stronger finances and it fails to live up to Labor's election promises. It is more proof that this government cannot be trusted. Labor has broken its word time and time and time again, and this budget reinforces those failures. It is a triumph of spin over substance, a triumph of short-termism over prudent planning, a triumph of stagnation over progress.

We saw the Treasurer earlier today get up and again mislead the House about the reaction from business to his budget. He mentioned a number of quotes and a number of organisations, and I was interested when I heard that because it was not quite what I recalled them saying, so I thought I should have a quick look at what they had said. Let us look at what the CCIQ said about this budget. The CCIQ release said—

... the Queensland business community had hoped to see a "Back to Business Budget", but the Labor Government had not offered significant support.

There is no significant support for business, according to the CCIQ. There was not much in the budget for small business, according to the CCIQ. The CCIQ general manager of advocacy also criticised the government's financial management, saying—

"Coupled with stubbornly high unemployment (predicted to remain above 6 per cent) in addition to zero growth in business investment, CCIQ believes the government has not focused enough on debt reduction," she said.

What did the Property Council have to say? The Queensland budget is a 'dangerous game', according to the warning of the property industry. The article said—

The Property Council warned that "unfortunately the Queensland government has succumbed to yet another potentially economically damaging additional tax ...

I repeat: economically damaging. That is what the Property Council said of this budget. The Treasurer claimed earlier today that they all praised this budget, but the Property Council said it was 'economically damaging'. What did the Master Builders have to say about it? The article said—

Master Builders deputy chief executive Paul Bidwell questioned why the Government continued budget for certain spending programs but failed to spend those allocated funds.

He said the government had underspent its allocations by \$1.7 billion annually for the past ... years.

"The government needs to ensure it spends all of the money it's allocated ...

He wanted to know why the government does not spend its money. That is what the Master Builders had to say. The REIQ put out a release which said 'Housing measures fall short in State budget'. What about AgForce? I am sure we will hear more from the deputy opposition leader about this. AgForce called the budget 'underwhelming'. The article on this stated that Grant Maudsley said—

... agriculture was one of the pillars of the state's economy ... but the State Government had outlined no clear vision to help the industry grow and prosper into the future.

"While there are billions of dollars set aside for road and rail projects in south-east Queensland, there appears to be no major new funding for regional and rural transport initiatives that would make it safer, easier and cheaper to get farm goods to market," he said.

Finally, what did the RACQ say about this? Their release was titled 'Motorists miss out in Queensland Budget', and it stated—

Motorists have been duped in this year's State Budget with drivers to continue to fork out too much in registration costs, according to the State's peak motoring body.

In its Budget, the Queensland Government pledged to cap future rises ... to inflation but not until 2019.

RACQ spokesperson Paul Turner said motorists were already paying through the nose.

"We have seen an increase in Queensland rego costs of more than 10 percent in the last three years. Annual jumps of 3.5 percent are almost double inflation and nothing more than a tax grab on motorists," Mr Turner said.

The fact that the opposition leader has today announced that an elected LNP government will freeze family car rego for the first three years must be welcome relief to all of those Queensland motorists out there who have seen Labor treat them as cash cows year after year after year.

Mr Byrne interjected.

Mr EMERSON: We were promised a jobs budget. What Labor delivered was a jobs con. Let me take the interjection from the member for Rockhampton because this is someone whose local community relies on cars to get around. We talk about infrastructure and we talk about cost of living, but members of his community rely on vehicles out there and he has been willing to ramp-up rego every year at twice the inflation rate. The clear contrast is that when we were in power we froze family car rego, but what did Labor do last time they were in office? They put rego up 30 per cent in just four years and they are back to their bad old days. They now say, 'We'll cap it at CPI but not until 2019.' A very clear distinction was made today. The LNP will freeze family car rego for the first three years if we are elected. We will freeze family car rego; this Labor government will keep putting it up for the next two years at twice the inflation rate. That is a very clear distinction. The LNP backs Queenslanders in terms of cost of living; the Labor Party only want to ramp it up even further with higher electricity prices and rego fees going through the roof.

Mr Costigan interjected.

Mr EMERSON: That is what we see here, so I am very happy to have taken that interjection from the member for Rockhampton.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! Member for Whitsunday, if you are going to interject, you will need to go back to your own seat please.

Mr EMERSON: As I said, we were promised a jobs budget. What Labor delivered was a jobs con. Employment forecasts are lower and the unemployment rate is forecast to remain higher for longer. Despite all of their claims about creating jobs, this budget will do nothing to reduce the unemployment rate over the next two years. In fact, this budget predicts 80,000 fewer jobs will be created in Queensland over the next three years. That is 80,000 fewer Queenslanders in work because of the lack of leadership from this Labor government.

This government talks a lot about jobs but that is all it is—talk, nothing more than talk. Quite obviously, this government has failed Queensland jobseekers. We should be leading the nation on job creation and job security, but under those opposite we are fighting for the wooden spoon. The clearest evidence of that is today's unemployment figures which were just released a little over an hour ago. What do we find again? In terms of trend figures, the figure is flat, exactly what was predicted by this budget—no change, stagnant in terms of those numbers. On the figures released today by the ABS, Queensland's unemployment rate has not budged on the trend of 6.3 per cent since the beginning of the year. We still have the second worst unemployment rate in Australia. That is what Labor have delivered. The ABS has given its view on the budget today. These are what the figures are and they reflect exactly what Labor promise—no hope, no jobs, no jobs bonanza, a jobs drought, just a con job. That is what today's figures say.

On the seasonally adjusted figures, our unemployment rate still remains equal second worst in Australia. Importantly, 11,200 full-time jobs were lost last month based on the ABS figures released today. They back up what Labor is telling Queensland—that Queenslanders have no hope of getting a job under this Labor government. What we saw two weeks ago were even more disastrous youth unemployment figures.

As I said, based on today's figures, we still have the second worst unemployment rate in Australia, but that was not always the case. When Labor came to office, Queensland's unemployment rate was equal with Victoria, just behind New South Wales and better than South Australia and Tasmania. What has happened since then? We have fallen behind. The gap between Queensland's unemployment rate and the Australian unemployment rate has tripled. In the last calendar year, Queensland lost 30,000 jobs. That was our worst year on record. Under Labor last year, 30,000 jobs were lost, which was our worst year on record, and that was after last year's jobs budget by Curtis Pitt and Labor. Last year they promised it would be a jobs budget, but all they could deliver was 30,000 jobs lost—our worst on record. The ABS figures today show that nothing is improving at all.

If it were not for the decline in the participation rate, unemployment would be even higher in Queensland. In fact, had the participation rate remained steady instead of falling under Labor, the unemployment rate in Queensland would be higher than seven per cent. We have had the employment minister try to explain to people that a falling participation rate is good news. She does not seem to understand the participation rate, which is a disgrace. She is getting the dollars for being the employment minister but she does not even understand the basics of her job. She goes out on the radio and argues that a falling participation rate is good news. Anyone with any understanding of this issue would understand that that is bad news.

The unemployment rate has worsened in many Queensland regions including Toowoomba, the Darling Downs-Maranoa and Fitzroy. In the past 12 months alone we have seen almost 20,000 jobs lost on the Sunshine and Gold coasts, with 11,400 jobs going from the Sunshine Coast and 7,000 going from the Gold Coast. Under Labor, Townsville's unemployment rate peaked at 11.6 per cent, which was its highest rate on record. In outback Queensland, the unemployment rate peaked at 13.7 per cent, which was also the highest rate on record for that region.

As I mentioned, youth unemployment continues to be not just unacceptably high; it is heartbreakingly high. In the past year 10,400 youth jobs were lost, with a further 8,400 young people dropping out of the labour market altogether. As the opposition leader mentioned in his speech, in outback Queensland the youth unemployment rate is at almost 50 per cent. When you cannot find a job, it is tough; when your kids cannot find a job, it is heart breaking. In Townsville, Cairns, Wide Bay and Brisbane east, the youth unemployment rate is higher than 20 per cent. In my local area of Brisbane west, the youth unemployment rate has almost doubled in the past year. In the past 12 months, we have seen job losses in Brisbane east, 4,400; Brisbane west, 4,200; Sunshine Coast, 4,100; Moreton Bay south, 2,300; Logan-Beaudesert, 1,900; Townsville, 2,100; Queensland outback, 1,800; Toowoomba, 800; Wide Bay, 700; Darling Downs-Maranoa, 700; and Brisbane north, 600. That is Labor's terrible tragic heartbreaking record.

After delivering jobs misery, Labor has hyped up the rhetoric with a so-called jobs bonanza, but this is a record failure in job creation as the government delivers some of the worst results in this state's history. As the opposition leader has already said, the jobs bonanza is nothing more than an admission that the government has failed Queensland jobseekers. The need for a supposed bonanza has been brought on by two years of failure and indecisiveness from a government stuck in neutral.

Is it any wonder we have seen such job losses across the regions when we consider the billions of dollars the government has ripped out of infrastructure spending? In Labor's first year in office, they slashed infrastructure spending by \$2 billion. They failed to spend 20 per cent of their infrastructure budget. We saw more of the same last year. In 2016-17, Labor underspent its infrastructure budget by \$1.7 billion. The infrastructure spend is still \$1.4 billion behind what the LNP delivered in its 2014-15 budget. Over the next four years, capital purchases will be half a billion dollars lower. In my own region of Brisbane west, Labor will spend \$124 million less than the LNP spent in our final budget year. This is not an infrastructure budget; this is a budget for a government that is desperate to hold onto power by promising projects that will be built, just not this year and maybe not the year after—maybe never ever. Again, this confirms that Labor is good at making promises, but is short on the actual delivery. Just like in the Public Enemy song, don't believe the hype, because all you get from Labor is hype.

The Palaszczuk Labor government was elected promising no new taxes and charges, but it shattered that promise in this budget with a new land tax. The Palaszczuk Labor government was elected promising to pay down debt by creating a debt reduction trust. The debt reduction trust does

not exist, it has never been referred to in any budget paper and debt continues to increase each and every year over the forward estimates. Labor was elected promising to repay general government net debt over a decade. The budget papers show net debt increasing yet again to \$11.3 billion. Labor was elected promising to deliver surpluses, but they continue to deliver fiscal deficits. Over the next four years, fiscal deficits will total more than \$11 billion. The deficits are driving an increase in debt, which will rapidly jump to more than \$81 billion over the forecasts. That is a record in Queensland, delivered by Labor. For the first time, the state's debt will be more than \$80 billion.

Those debt projections would be even worse if not for Labor's expectation that it will suddenly be able to put a lid on expenses growth and employee expenses growth after significantly missing their previous targets. The Treasurer cannot even keep his own fiscal principles. Last year, a huge blow-out in the size of the Public Service saw the Treasurer commit to keeping public sector growth in line with population growth. However, what do we see this year? The Treasurer missing the mark and breaking his own promise. When asked on the ABC to detail the growth in the Public Service, the Treasurer could not even answer the question. That is the financial genius of the member for Mulgrave. He does not even know his own budget and cannot answer the simplest of questions. When presented with the answer from the budget papers, he said, 'I guess that's right'.

Over the next four years total employee expenses are expected to be \$5.6 billion higher than previously forecast. Despite paying more for those costs, Queenslanders keep getting more of the same under Labor: more failures in child safety, a rail fail crisis, crime on the rise and the return of ambulance ramping. We are paying more and we have the biggest Public Service in Queensland's history, but we also have a child safety crisis, the rail fail, crime going through the roof and ambulance ramping. No doubt the Treasurer will stand up and say, 'Trust me; I will deliver for the future', but past behaviour is the best predictor—

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr EMERSON: It is fascinating to hear the minister overseeing the child safety crisis come out, but she will also say to all of the people who are struggling out there—

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order!

Mr EMERSON: She will go out there and salute the registration rise that puts more and more—

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Minister, the member for Indooroopilly is not taking your interjections.

Mr EMERSON: She will go out there and salute the registration rise. She will tell all the people who are struggling that it is great that registration costs are going up at twice the inflation rate. She will go out there and salute the fact that electricity prices are going through the roof under this government, putting more and more pressure on families that are struggling.

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Minister, I have asked you to cease interjecting.

Mr EMERSON: As I said, she will go out there and salute all those rises that put pressure on struggling families. She is happy to see the cost of living for Queensland families go through the roof, putting pressure on families. She is the minister overseeing a child safety crisis. That is happening on her watch. That is the kind of government we get from those opposite. They are all about rhetoric and are happy to put costs through the roof at twice the inflation rate, putting pressure on families.

Government members interjected.

Mr EMERSON: They do not like it when the truth is put to them, but that is the reality. We know that Labor is great on rhetoric, while unfortunately Queenslanders suffer all the time. Today we saw the figures from the ABS. What have they delivered? The second worst unemployment rate in Australia! People are without jobs because of Labor's policies. They do not like that being pointed out to them. They want to talk about jobs and they want to talk about the fact that they are helping poor families, but the reality is that our unemployment rate is the second worst in Australia. This is the worst year ever in Queensland's history. The cost of living is going through the roof. Registration fees are going up. Time and time again they have had the chance to keep the cost of registration in line with the inflation rate, and yet again in this budget they have squibbed it. It will not happen next year or the year after. It will not happen until 2019.

Today, we saw a very clear distinction. The LNP government understood the pressures that families are under. We understood that families cannot tolerate fees going up so fast and so hard, and the pressures that puts on them. That is why we announced today that an LNP government would freeze family car registration for the next three years. We will freeze it; they will ramp it up year after year. They want to hit hard those families that are struggling.

Government members interjected.

Mr EMERSON: I love it when they interject, because I know that they are feeling the pain of this and they know the problems. I see the member for Murrumba who is supposed to be the member for Mount Coot-tha, but he has run miles away. What does this budget deliver for the area that he is supposed to be still working for? Not much!

A government member interjected.

Mr EMERSON: I am just about to get to that. Again, he has failed his own area. He has run away from it. The member for Mount Coot-tha is not only running away from his electorate; he has abandoned it. Not much has been delivered for his area. While I appreciate the funding for extra classrooms at Indooroopilly State High School, there is not much else for my area. When I look at what has been delivered for my area, there is not much at all. Infrastructure spending is down in inner Brisbane generally. It is pretty hard that the member has run away from his own seat. People ask me, 'Why is he going miles away? Why has he gone 40 kilometres away? Isn't he committed to his community?' Clearly not! When we see today's budget, we know why. He has failed to deliver for his seat. Does he even care about the seat he is still supposed to be representing? This is a disgraceful effort. Labor has abandoned Queensland and the member has abandoned the seat he is still supposed to be representing. What a disgrace across the state.

Debate, on motion of Mr Emerson, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.30 pm.

PRIVILEGE

Comments by Member for Everton, Withdrawal and Apology

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (2.30 pm): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. In the last sitting of parliament I was involved in a debate about the juvenile justice system. I made some comments about the Attorney-General and ascribed some comments to her which at the time I thought were accurate. Upon reflection and trying to research that source, I realise I was incorrect. I want to apologise to the Attorney-General and the House, and I withdraw those comments unreservedly.

ELECTRICITY AND OTHER LEGISLATION (BATTERIES AND PREMIUM FEED-IN TARIFF) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (2.31 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Electricity Act 1994 and the Energy and Water Ombudsman Act 2006 for particular purposes. I table the bill and explanatory notes. I nominate the Public Works and Utilities Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Electricity and Other Legislation (Batteries and Premium Feed-in Tariff) Amendment Bill 2017 [\[996\]](#).

Tabled paper: Electricity and Other Legislation (Batteries and Premium Feed-in Tariff) Amendment Bill 2017, explanatory notes [\[997\]](#).

The bill clarifies the regulatory arrangements for how batteries and additional generation can work alongside the Solar Bonus Scheme. The bill also makes it easier for embedded network customers to access the competitive retail market. Queensland has one of the world's highest rates of uptake for small-scale solar power, which is installed in around one in three households. The Solar Bonus Scheme played a pivotal role in driving this solar uptake at an early stage. While the scheme has closed to new customers, we are still seeing strong demand for small-scale solar as renewable technology prices continue to fall and customers look to take greater control over their energy use. We are also seeing rapid growth in the development of complementary technologies such as battery storage. Battery storage has the potential to give customers even more control over their usage and provide other benefits to the network.

Queensland government policies which support the transition to a cleaner energy sector, including our commitment to 50 per cent renewables by 2030, one million solar rooftops or 3,000 megawatt commitment, and the actions set out in the Powering Queensland Plan, help add to this demand and development of the clean energy sector. The provisions of this bill further demonstrate the government's commitment to supporting a clean energy future for Queensland. The amendments in the bill clarify how batteries and additional generation can work alongside the Solar Bonus Scheme while preserving the original intent of the scheme.

The scheme was designed so that generation from a qualifying generator would be used in customers' homes and businesses first, with any excess beyond normal consumption to be exported. It is proposed that these provisions commence retrospectively from the date of introduction today. The government has not made this decision lightly; however, this is necessary to minimise opportunities for customers to unfairly profit from ambiguity in the law while the bill is considered. Transitional provisions will preserve the rights of those who have invested or contracted to invest in equipment under the legislation in place at the time of introduction.

The bill retains our commitment to the Solar Bonus Scheme and provides a fair solution for Solar Bonus Scheme customers who wish to embrace new technologies. Changes to the National Electricity Rules which apply in Queensland will come into effect on 1 December 2017. These changes will clarify the regulatory arrangements for retail competition in embedded networks and make it easier for embedded network customers to choose an alternative electricity supplier. Embedded network customers are those customers who purchase their electricity from an embedded network operator such as a body corporate, caravan park owner or a shopping centre. With the increasing popularity of embedded networks in recent years, it is important that customers within these networks have the ability to choose the price and price structure of the electricity service that suits them best and are able to easily access government schemes and consumer protections. The new rule does not prevent embedded network operators from continuing to sell electricity to embedded network customers; however, it will provide them with a greater incentive to compete with retailers.

To support the changes, it is necessary to amend the Electricity Act 1994 to remove the legislative barrier that restricts competition for embedded network customers and ensure there is no inconsistency with the national framework. This bill will also ensure that eligible embedded network customers who decide to purchase their electricity from a chosen retailer will have access to the free dispute resolution services of the Energy and Water Ombudsman Queensland, just as direct customers can. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. MC BAILEY (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (2.36 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to the Public Works and Utilities Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Public Works and Utilities Committee.

Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

Hon. MC BAILEY (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (2.36 pm), by leave, without notice, I move:

That under the provisions of standing order 136 the Public Works and Utilities Committee report to the House on the Electricity and Other Legislation (Batteries and Premium Feed-in Tariff) Amendment Bill by 11 August 2017.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL**APPROPRIATION BILL****REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL****Second Reading (Cognate Debate)**

Resumed from p. 1676.

 **Mr CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (2.37 pm): I rise to make my contribution to the 2017 budget and address the Appropriation Bill. In the Far North, the key budget measures that have been eagerly awaited by business, industry and residents have included the Cairns Shipping Channel Development Project and the upgrade of the Cairns Convention Centre.

The story of dredging the inlet at Cairns to take on larger cruise ships has been a conversation and argument for many years in Cairns. Cairns already has a dredged channel. Without it, you would struggle to get any of our reef fleet in or out of the city to the reef, Green Island or Fitzroy Island. The cruise numbers for Cairns have been strong. In fact, they are strong across the country, the state and of course the world. Cruise ship demand has grown consistently, but particularly in the past two years we have seen a spike in demand. It has been stated to me by P&O representatives that their customers spend twice as much money on Cairns stopovers than any other stop on their route. There can be no doubt that having a cruise ship dock at your city injects money into your economy. Be it coffee, beer, excursions or sightseeing, it all adds up.

In recent years, the issue arising at Cairns is that the dredged inlet is not wide and deep enough to accommodate the new classes of cruise ships currently circling the globe. Figures from ports north indicate that the demand on cruise ship access to Cairns is growing strongly, but it is not just the number of ships: it is the size. With increasing numbers of cruise ships having to anchor outside the channel and tender into Yorkeys Knob for access and passengers having to spend 20 minutes on a bus, a far more suitable arrangement is to increase the channel dimensions to allow for direct access to the cruise liner terminal in the city, which is literally 100 metres from the city. I look forward to the EIS shortly and the announcement of the on-land dredge spoil location and process.

The Cairns Convention Centre was built in the days of Labor treasurer Keith De Lacy, some 20-odd years ago. A shining light of tourism in Cairns, it has twice received the International Association of Congress Centres award for best congress centre in the world—in 2004 and 2014. It is one of only two centres in the world to receive this award twice. Owned by the state government, the Cairns Convention Centre needs upgrading. It is not that it is small; it is not that it is run down. In fact, it is quite the opposite. The demand for large-scale conferences of thousands of participants, multiple large rooms and theatres, breakout rooms and separation of conventions that all want to come to Cairns is very much on the rise. The business case for the upgrade has been described by our local industry as a no-brainer. I welcome the \$176 million in the budget and forward estimates to bring this economic driver for Cairns on line.

In the Cairns region the key economic driver is tourism. Tourism is driving private investment in our region at levels not seen for decades. The backbone of tourism is more than just a glossy brochure. The Great Barrier Reef cannot be ignored. The world is concerned about the health of the Great Barrier Reef. Locals are also concerned about the health of the Great Barrier Reef, because rarely do you find a Cairns worker who does not work in tourism or in a job that supports the tourism sector directly or indirectly. Government investment in the Great Barrier Reef is critical. I welcome the record budget for Tourism and Events Queensland, because I know that it is through TEQ that we can get the message to the world about the Great Barrier Reef and encourage the world to come and experience it. Once you experience it, you respect it, you cherish it, you want to help it and you want to tell your friends and your countries all about it. By investing in tourism attraction we can educate the world about the pressure the reef is under and we can encourage the world to do its bit to help.

The government's Powering North Queensland Plan will benefit the Cairns region by providing more generation from renewables. Cairns is at the end of the line of up to 1,400 kilometres of often lost transmission. The north of the state has the sun, the wind and the water. I welcome the vision of Minister Bailey in recognising the untapped potential all across our north. By investing in this space and by keeping generation and distribution in government hands we can control electricity production and prices. Cairns does not want more coal-fired power stations built in Queensland.

The Works for Queensland allocation of another \$200 million over two years is an investment welcomed by our mayors. Rarely have I had a conversation with a mayor or CEO in Far North Queensland in which they have not spruiked Works for Queensland—how it was delivered by the state and what they have done with it. I welcome that continued investment. I think it provides a positive outlook for our councils.

Every member of this House pushes for various projects or policies leading up to budget time. I am sure that most members in this House have missed out on a project they have been pushing for. For Barron River it is the Smithfield bypass. For two years this has been worked on under my watch—years of preparation, submissions and planning. I certainly thank Transport and Main Roads at Cairns for their hard work on this issue. I also thank the motorists of the northern beaches for their input to and support of the project. We did not get it this time. I know that this news will disappoint many thousands of motorists in Barron River. For that I have no excuses, only a steadfast commitment to get this project delivered at some stage in the future. Funding is competitive and you cannot win everything every time, but the fight must go on.

For the past 2½ years I have been bearing the load of representing not just the Barron River electorate but also the Cairns electorate. One has to ask: where was the member for Cairns on the port redevelopment? Where was the member for Cairns on the convention centre upgrade push?

The No. 1 infrastructure project in Barron River has been and still is the Smithfield bypass proposal. My passion for this project is rock solid. It has come this far under my watch. I know that it stacks up. I know that it will work to resolve the Smithfield roundabout congestion. Instead of just bashing government, I want to work with the hardworking departments. Unlike those opposite, I will work with government to progress this issue and bring it forward. We will keep fighting for it. It was Labor that delivered the Bill Fulton Bridge project after hollow promises from the LNP and it will be Labor that is the only party trusted to sort out the Smithfield bypass.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.44 pm): We have already heard what a con this budget is. This so-called jobs budget promises 80,000 fewer jobs. This so-called budget for builders predicts that dwelling investment will go backwards next year and the next, meaning less construction activity. This so-called budget for battlers continues to increase the cost of car registration at twice the inflation rate and continues to slug vulnerable Queenslanders with higher power prices. This so-called infrastructure budget delivers less infrastructure for the people of Queensland.

This government simply lacks vision. The Deputy Premier and infrastructure minister certainly lacks vision. The Deputy Premier's vision for infrastructure extends to just one project. She views the infrastructure portfolio as being solely focused on delivering one project to the detriment of all other projects. That one project is, of course, Cross River Rail.

This inner-city Deputy Premier does not understand the regions and does not get how major infrastructure investments like dams and bridges can transform all of Queensland for the better. All she is focused on is winning her inner-city Brisbane seat, and she sees Cross River Rail as her ticket back into the big house, but she is not so committed to the project to fund all of it. In typical Labor style, those opposite only do things in half-measures. This government has funded less than half of the capital cost of the project. Most of the funding is allocated in the final years of the project—certainly not shovel-ready, as proclaimed by Anastacia Palaszczuk back in 2013.

Labor is going to the election on the promise of building this project and the promise of finding the remaining funding for it, but just not yet. Like everything this Labor government does, it is surrounded in secrecy. Where is the full business case? Who is really paying for the full \$14.5 billion price tag of this project? At estimates last year we saw that the \$5.4 billion price tag did not include trains. The Deputy Premier had a tunnel without trains as Labor's only infrastructure priority.

Independent economists have described the Cross River Rail project as weak and Labor's approach to this project as a weak business case—but it has good, glossy brochures! We have to wait at least another two months before we will see the predicted heavily sanitised business case.

The \$14.5 billion price tag needs to be properly understood. We have seen it before with Labor's billion dollar water grid—dams without pipes and pipes without dams—and the wasteful investment that has seen bulk water prices increase by 350 per cent. We have seen it before with Labor's gold plating of the electricity network, contributing to 109 per cent price increases over the decade. It is clear that we cannot trust Labor.

How can Queenslanders trust this Labor government when this con job budget rips infrastructure out of regional Queensland? Some \$76 million is cut from the Darling Downs and Maranoa. Toowoomba will receive \$200 million less. There will be \$162 million less in infrastructure spending for the outback and \$35 million less in the Fitzroy region. As I said yesterday, there is a savage cut for the Gold Coast of \$164 million. A whopping half a billion dollars of infrastructure spending is slashed from the good old sunny coast and Moreton Bay.

This is a budget which has ripped funding out of regional roads to pad the member for South Brisbane's inner-city seat. If the Deputy Premier visited regional Queensland she might learn just how much funding would mean for the north, out west and throughout Central Queensland. Compared to last year, over \$370 million has been ripped out of the regional road and transport infrastructure budget—the regions outside the south-east corner, and obviously a further \$30 million has been ripped out of that budget. Some \$370 million could go a long way to sealing rural roads, improving the flood resilience of our highways and upgrading and strengthening bridges. In the regions, road funding means better economic opportunities, more productivity for our primary producers and safer journeys for our families, who often have the longest commutes. Instead, this funding has been ripped out of regional communities to back a project for which we do not even have the full costing details.

The LNP will build infrastructure again and we will build the roads, the bridges and the dams that Queensland needs. We have already announced that the LNP will restore the very popular \$500 million—half a billion dollar—Royalties for Regions program to replace Labor's failed Building our Regions fund. This budget has exposed the embarrassing Building our Regions program for what it is—an obvious failure and a sham, so much so that it has been slashed from this budget. Tuesday's budget quietly scrapped the program which failed to deliver in the first year of the Palaszczuk government 99 per cent of the infrastructure promised in that year. We want our local governments and our community groups to make submissions for worthy projects, and the LNP team has already been talking to regional councils about candidate projects as we get around the state—and this is for real infrastructure projects, not little projects that could easily be funded by the Community Gambling Benefit Fund.

In this budget it was revealed that the Deputy Premier has spent a further \$93 million on spin doctors in her infrastructure department. That is \$93 million of expenses blowout which this government could have used to actually build infrastructure—to build roads, to fix up bridges, put towards the dams across this state—but instead this Labor government has hired an extra 31 spin doctors in Brisbane to mock up a glossy brochure for Cross River Rail with propaganda pamphlets delivered to half of South-East Queensland. When the Deputy Premier is next travelling around the state as the Acting Premier, which she will be next week, I would really like the Acting Premier to front up to these regional towns and explain to them why that \$93 million would not have been better used for infrastructure and actually building something. It is obvious that underspending on infrastructure is the way of Labor governments. Last year it failed to get \$1.7 billion out the door. That is what this Deputy Premier was doing—squirreling it away, not getting this money out the door, not spending it in those regions that need it. The figure the year before was much higher—\$2 billion—so over two years we have seen \$3.7 billion of infrastructure that has not been delivered. No wonder Queenslanders are giving up on this government!

While the Premier and the trade minister like to bask in the success of farm productivity, they should not look for any increased support in the budget. In fact, funding for the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries—not forestry—has been cut, down \$14.21 million. Funding for the department's agricultural services has been slashed, down nine per cent. This clearly demonstrates that Labor and the agriculture minister are not interested in our important commodities—in grain, sugar cane, horticulture, beef, dairy, research and development services. It is once again the trade off the back of our solid agricultural industry and trade from our booming coal prices that have saved the day for this government with higher coal prices and higher trade. This is good luck for the government, not good management, yet the government is still too embarrassed to talk about coal. The agricultural sector is still reeling. Queensland Farmers' Federation President Stuart Armitage said this about the budget—

Queensland agriculture needs a government that not only talks up agriculture, but delivers upon its words by providing the right frameworks for our sector to continue growing and realizing its potential.

QFF has seen through the spin—talk is cheap—and it has seen through this do-nothing government's budget. AgForce is the same. President Grant Maudsley said—

While there are billions of dollars set aside for ... rail projects in southeast Queensland, there appears to be no ... new funding for regional and rural transport initiatives that would make it safer, easier and cheaper to get farm goods to market.

Then of course Dan Galligan from Queensland Canegrowers hoped that there would be more details of benefits to his sector. He said—

We haven't seen too much in the budget that's in it for anyone in the cane industry.

You would not know that the Palaszczuk government had a Minister for Rural Economic Development when you look at those budget papers. There is not a rural economic development measure or plan in sight. The Minister for Rural Economic Development is all hat and no cattle. The Palaszczuk government's record on agriculture is inflicting failed minister after failed minister on to this most important sector.

I turn now to the budget's impact on the electorate of Nanango. It is indeed bittersweet. Firstly, the Kingaroy Hospital has been named as one of the hospitals receiving part funding for redevelopment, and it is about time. Labor has finally recognised that Kingaroy Hospital is in need of an urgent upgrade. When we left government it was the LNP that had listed Kingaroy as the No. 1 regional hospital that most needed it. Whilst that funding went to Roma in the first budget—it was much needed for Roma as well—I can tell members that the feedback in the last couple of years about why Kingaroy has missed out has been astronomical. The former LNP government had identified Kingaroy as one of the 12 ageing regional hospitals in need of critical maintenance and upgrade, neglected by years and years of Labor governments. However, in the last couple of years our community did not give up. We put petitions before the parliament and have repeatedly called on the minister to attend the hospital so he can see for himself.

A new hospital for the South Burnett has been my No. 1 priority since becoming the local state member. I spoke about this issue in my maiden speech, especially around the maternity ward—one of the busiest in the state. I understand that it is actually the second busiest maternity ward outside of Mount Isa, with mums needing to move from an upstairs birthing suite down into the main ward. The Kingaroy Hospital has the best staff in Queensland working in the worst hospital facility, and I thank Dr Richard Lewandowski, the med super in Kingaroy, who even brought this issue up at the rural doctors conference with my colleague and our shadow health minister, John-Paul Langbroek, just last weekend. I want to thank all of those hardworking staff for working there in less than ideal conditions, but we need to remember that there is only \$8 million in this year's budget. We need to keep the pressure up and make sure that we continue to see funding in the out years because that is only 13 per cent of the total needed.

While the South Burnett community is cautiously optimistic about that hospital announcement, it is commiserating the loss of the state network roads funding, because buried in the Wide Bay-Burnett Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program we find that only two per cent funding for the entire Wide Bay state road network has been set aside for the South Burnett. It is even worse in North Burnett. It is, I think, around zero per cent. South Burnett gets two per cent and North Burnett, ably represented by the member for Callide which takes in a new part of my electorate, get less than zero per cent, as is my understanding. It is simply unacceptable. Our state road networks like the Bunya Highway, Burnett Highway and the D'Aguilar Highway need funding injections and major connection roads like the Bunya Mountain-Maidenwell road and Burrandowan Road just seem to have been forgotten. As I have spoken about in this House previously, this Labor government has almost entirely cut spending on our South Burnett roads and there is nothing in the pipeline for at least three years. As we know, that is typical of Labor governments. This budget underlines the Palaszczuk Labor government's failure to understand and deliver what communities like mine—the Somerset and the South Burnett communities—really need.

Nowhere is there any genuine relief for spiralling electricity and water charges. Nowhere is there any relief for the highest vehicle registration charges in the nation. There are people in my electorate who are so angry they have started petitions about the never-ending rego rises. They are desperately trying to let Labor know of the negative impact that this increase has on their family budget. Only the LNP has a plan to freeze family car registration. I am proud to be a member of a party that will save a family with two six-cylinder cars over \$200 in three years. The LNP understands that every little bit helps and that, like governments, families simply need to live within their means.

Essentially, Labor is continuing to rip money out of regional Queensland. As I have said before, agriculture is the backbone of the Nanango electorate. In my region, primary producers are very disappointed with this budget. It does not contain any vision or new initiatives to help the agricultural sector. One thing that is clear is that regional Queensland has simply been forgotten.

As I travel around my electorate and this great state, I see that Queenslanders have been encouraged that in this state there is a party that has a plan to deliver infrastructure and build a better Queensland and that that is the LNP. Our new deal for regional Queensland gives hope to all of those out there that the LNP has a plan to create jobs, build infrastructure and support safe and livable communities.

We pledge to act on energy security, granting priority project status to a new, low-emission coal-fired power station for North Queensland. Following on from the \$8.5 billion partnership with the federal coalition that we delivered when in government, we will ensure that there is a fully funded 10-year Bruce Highway Action Plan. Of course, we have our upgraded \$500 million Royalties for the Regions fund to focus on projects that will foster job creation in rural and regional Queensland, lead to more investment in the regions and help regional and rural communities become economically sustainable—just like we did when we were in government and unlike this incompetent Labor government's failed project, which has not been able to get the money out the door, which has not been able to identify major projects and which is simply not able to build the roads, the dams, or fix the bridges that people need in regional Queensland.

The LNP has also given a regional road guarantee to councils. Under the LNP, there will be no changes to TIDS funding. Our new deal for regional Queensland is a plan to build new infrastructure across the state—dams for water security and job-creating agricultural projects.

Queenslanders can trust the LNP to build a better Queensland, because we have done it before. The last time the LNP was in government it finalised \$1.6 billion for the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing, creating over 1,800 jobs. We started the \$3 billion Queen's Wharf project, a world-class integrated resort development creating 10,000 jobs. We started or completed 11 new schools. We launched a 10-year \$10 billion Bruce Highway Action Plan. We partnered in a \$1.1 billion Gateway Upgrade North Project. We delivered more than \$700 million worth of projects off the back of our Royalties for the Regions program. It is only the LNP that can deliver for Queensland.

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (3.03 pm): For my community, this budget is about the ongoing work and seeing through the commitments that I made during the election and the projects that I have announced since then. At the heart of this budget is the core promise that I made during my time as a candidate: that I would always fight for jobs.

Congestion is a problem for people in my electorate. It has been for over a decade and it is getting worse. Many people in my electorate have to travel to the city for work. For 20 years every government has been building roads and upgrading intersections to try to solve this problem, but the reality is that, until public transport becomes a cheaper and much faster option, our roads will remain clogged. The government's twofold approach is to be commended. Firstly, the Fairer Fares package has already commenced its rollout, which will mean that a typical commuter from my electorate of Pine Rivers now saves around \$900 a year. That is great news for the battlers in the Pine Rivers electorate.

Locally, this budget continues my commitment to ensure accessibility at the Strathpine station, the major train hub in my electorate. This \$15.2 million upgrade will provide independent accessibility and early works will commence in November this year. The Strathpine station is an old run-down station and the installation of lifts, a new overpass footbridge, drop-off points, amenities and general improvement will contribute greatly to the look and feel of the Strathpine business district.

This budget also provides the funds that are needed for Cross River Rail. This project will save eight minutes in travel time on the Caboolture line. For the people of Moreton Bay, Cross River Rail will also deliver an additional 5,400 seats, with trains departing every six minutes. Cross River Rail will also take around 18,500 cars off the road every day, reducing congestion on our roads and ensuring that we can spend more time with our family and friends and less time travelling.

Of course, public transport does not work for everybody. That is why this budget is also a roads budget. The ongoing works on the Gateway Motorway North south of Nudgee—widening that section to six lanes—is an investment that I know that many in my electorate will welcome. That section is a choke point in peak hour traffic and a key artery for many in my community. Similarly, the removal of two sets of traffic lights and a roundabout at the Gympie Road-Dixon Street intersection at Strathpine has been welcomed by the people of my electorate. The majority of this \$3 million project is funded in this budget. It will allow a smooth flow of traffic through the future growth of the Strathpine business district. So, too, will the upgrade of the neighbouring Petrie roundabout. Many in my community have been advocating for work on this roundabout, as it is particularly needed with the incoming university campus. Together, these improvements will significantly reduce travel times and increase safety on major local roads in my electorate.

The people in my electorate do it tough. Part of the reason they have moved so dramatically against incumbents over the last two election cycles is the feeling that they have not been listened to. I have listened and I am proud to say that this budget helps the most vulnerable and helps those who are most in need. A balanced government budget means little if the pressure is moved onto households. That is why I invite members of my community to explore the new concessions and rebates on the Smart Savings website, which was launched recently by the Premier. It is a great tool for people to ensure that they are making the most of our government's schemes and programs to make a real difference to their household budget.

My background is in education and, for me, it is a top priority for my electorate of Pine Rivers. In this budget there is \$2.8 million for the \$3 million Bray Park State High School multipurpose school hall upgrade. That will finally see a stop to politics being played by others with this vital project. Significantly, the budget also sees a considerable investment in classroom upgrades at Lawnton State School to the tune of \$155,455. The member for Kallangur and I have also been meeting with Lawnton State School and the department to progress that school's dire need for a school hall—something that I spoke about in my first speech to the House.

Since my election, I have seen a building investment of over \$7.3 million in state schools in the Pine Rivers electorate. This budget is adding another investment of over \$2.9 million. I see the Minister for Education is in the House. I would like to thank her for the contribution that she has made to the schools in my electorate.

Catholic and independent schools in my electorate have also seen a similar building investment from our government, ensuring that my growing community is well serviced now and into the future. In my time as the member, a great achievement has been the installation of flashing school zone signs at every school in my electorate, including Genesis Christian College.

We can measure our progress against those who came before us. When compared to the failed Newman-Nicholls team, in just two years we have led the creation of double the number of jobs. Under the Palaszczuk Labor government, Queensland has seen growth of an extra 59,200 jobs. That figure contrasts starkly with the 28,700 jobs created in the three years of the Newman government. The failed Newman-Nicholls team was a government of sackings, not job creation. Our government supports the growth of business, industries and communities across the state. This budget directly supports 40,000 jobs while continuing to create more and improved employment outcomes for all Queenslanders into the future.

With school halls and classroom upgrades, flashing lights on every major road at every school, train station upgrades, intersection improvements, congestion busting, water infrastructure, fare reductions, health and much needed social service investment, this budget makes good on local projects that I have been fighting for for my community and my community has been fighting for for decades. My predecessor delivered nothing.

Mr Brown interjected.

Ms BOYD: My predecessor delivered none of these things—I will take that interjection from the member for Capalaba—over the three years of LNP representation for my community. With the exception of cuts, sellings and sackings, my community missed out every time. Only Labor cares about the Pine Rivers electorate. Only Labor cares about Queenslanders. That is why Labor is paying for Cross River Rail—not the failed Newman-Nicholls LNP team and not the LNP Turnbull government in Canberra.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I seek leave to have the rest of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*. I can confirm that I have approval from the Deputy Speaker.

Leave granted.

Locally the Bray Park PCYC, Employment Outcomes and Youth Development Foundation have contributed to the more than 18 000 disadvantaged Queenslanders who have been assisted to develop skills, undertake paid work placements and earn nationally recognised qualifications. We are adding to that this budget with an additional \$60 million invested in Skilling Queenslanders for Work, to transition locals into paid employment in a transitioning and changing economy.

Our \$1.6 billion Powering Queensland Plan will put downwards pressure on electricity bills while ensuring that we continue to enjoy a lifestyle bought by an affordable, secure and sustainable energy supply. Not only will this ensure downward pressure on energy prices, it will also drive investment and generate jobs.

We are injecting resources into housing, which will improve the supply of social and affordable housing, including for women and children escaping domestic and family violence. The First Home Owners Grant will be extended to get Queenslanders into their own home sooner. I know I could never have afforded to purchase a home without this grant! Last year it saw 932 first home buyers in our region realise their dream and I am so pleased to see it funded to be made available to our community for longer.

Labor Governments value Health investment and we value our skilled and valued health workforce. In Government we have employed an additional 3172 Nurses, 882 Health Professionals, 1191 Doctors and 250 Ambulance Officers. Locally we will see a new Adolescent Mental Health facility at the Prince Charles Hospital which replaces the Barrett Centre which was closed during the cuts of those opposite.

A record Education investment is seeing an additional 3095 Teachers and teacher aids under our Labor government and this budget sees another 230 more teachers to support our preppies in Queensland.

This budget sees the biggest injection of frontline staff into child safety department safety in over decade. A \$200 million package over 4 years seeing 236 new child safety staff in the next year alone. Ensuring that every child in our state can get the best start in life.

We are overhauling our probation and parole system to enable tougher supervision of parolees, reduce reoffending and improve rehabilitation and mental health services. Our investment in Youth Justice will see 17 years olds moved out of adult prisons and provide pathways to reduce reoffending behaviour. We will re-establish the Drug Court in Queensland and will continue to build on the 332 additional Police Officers we have employed since March 2015.

Under our leadership ours continues to be an innovative, diverse and productive economy. The unemployment rate is falling, not skyrocketing as it was under the LNP.

Our local dam North Pine will see a Water Treatment Plant upgrade of \$6 million invested this budget from the \$10.2 million total spend. This will go a long way to reduce capacity constraints in our growing communities. In also continues the renewal energy boom with 17 large scale renewables projects are getting up off the ground.

As I said Mr Speaker this is a record Education spend and I want to detail some of the education investment for my community to the House—Bray Park State High School in 2015/16—\$140,000 towards the refurbishment of home economics facilities, in 2016/17 there is \$30,566 towards supply and installation of active equipment, \$96,759 towards the refurbishment of home economics facilities, \$212,081 towards multi-purpose hall extension. Bray Park State School received 2016/17 for \$395,127 towards refurbishment of Blocks G & H. Dayboro State School in 2016/17 received \$229,147 towards refurbishment of Blocks D, G and H/R2 which has seen the installation of the retractable walls in classrooms. Lawnton State School received in 2015/16 \$100,000 towards refurbishment of Prep buildings and in 2016/17 \$103,858 towards refurbishment of prep buildings and \$450,000 towards refurbishments of Blocks A & C and as I said \$155,455 towards refurbishments to Blocks A & C. Pine Rivers State High School in 2015/16 received \$140,000 towards refurbishment of the Home Economics kitchen and \$125,000 towards repurposing Blocks 9,10,11 & 12 which includes the remodelling of the mechanics workshop. 2016/17 another \$116,770 towards refurbishment of the Home Economics kitchen. \$51,197 towards repurposing Blocks 9,10,11 & 12, and the recent investment \$100,000 for multiple shade structures. Strathpine State School received 2015/16 in \$257,365 towards Refurbishments for classroom Block D. Strathpine West State School 2015/16 in \$79,748 towards amenities for people with disabilities and 2016/17 saw \$250,000 to refurbish Block 16. Genesis Christian College saw \$500,000 to construct 4 classrooms, storeroom, meeting / seminar room, administration offices, secondary staff room, kitchenette, verandas, outdoor learning area, lift, furniture & equipment and site works. As well as the conversion of temporary secondary staff work area to a science laboratory, furniture and equipment.

This is a budget that delivers for my community and for Queensland and continues to deliver surpluses and pay down debt. It is a budget for builders and battlers and a budget that continues to build our legacy for a better way for Queensland.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (3.10 pm): It is a pleasure to rise to speak in the budget reply. I commend the Leader of the Opposition for his comprehensive budget reply and the shadow Treasurer and the deputy leader of the LNP for theirs. It was interesting that the first speaker from the government's side was the Minister for Health who I shadow. The member for Pine Rivers was not in the 53rd Parliament, but the health minister's contribution today was exactly what he used to say in the 53rd Parliament when Labor members knew they were going to lose. He got more and more shrill. We saw it this morning in question time from the education minister. Those opposite become more and more shrill, more and more nervous, and are more and more abusive towards this side of the House as they get more and more nervous heading to an election.

The Minister for Health, who was minister for education in the 53rd Parliament, basically gave up on Greenslopes and moved to Woodridge. In fact, he did not attend his ministerial office for the last four months before the election in 2012. Every day in here it was as though those opposite were going to keep fighting the rear guard action, but they actually gave up on the hustings. It is interesting that we hear those personal attacks from the Minister for Health because twice in this House in this 55th Parliament—on 1 December 2015 and then on 1 December 2016—he has spoken about being generous and big-hearted. Something must happen to the Minister for Health as we get close to Christmas. It was in a condolence motion for a former member, Bill Hewitt, that the health minister spoke about civility and integrity mattering greatly. That is not what we heard before lunch today from the minister in his response to the budget reply. I think it is significant that members who have been in this House—and we have had significant change at the last two elections—who love hearing that chest-beating rhetoric from the health minister and the education minister and all of those failed ministers from that Bligh Labor government, don't worry about them.

Ms Jones: Like you?

Mr LANGBROEK: I was not in the Bligh Labor government. I am proud to say I was never in the Bligh Labor government. All that rhetoric, that chest beating and thumping, does not matter to the people of Queensland. What does matter to the two young ladies who were in the chamber a few

minutes ago, Jodie and Sara, who I just met at a bowel cancer awareness function, is getting proper health treatment, getting the best education for their kids and the best future for Queenslanders, not the sort of rhetoric that we hear from the health minister trying to drag down the opposition leader, no matter who it is. But don't worry, new members of the LNP and new members of the Labor Party, you can come in here and do all of that chest beating and telling us how terrible we are, but you will get more and more nervous as the election comes closer, especially if it is at the bottom of the pendulum. Good luck to you all. Let us get into the budget reply. Let us have a bit more civility and integrity. Let us have a bit more generosity and big-heartedness between us instead of this nastiness that is coming through all the time, especially from those opposite.

When it comes to health, it is families—mums to be, those mums who I spoke about, Jodie and Sara from the Redcliffe electorate, both with bowel cancer in their early thirties, sick and vulnerable Queenslanders—who are the losers in Labor's tax-and-spend budget which does very little to improve the health services on which they rely. One in five Queenslanders are admitted into our public hospitals every year. Whether you are one of the 1.81 million Queenslanders who are treated in our emergency departments, a mum or dad to one of the 45,000 babies delivered at our hospitals or a rural or regional Queenslanders seeking specialist care, there is one thing many of our patients have in common: Labor has let you down again. Queenslanders have been let down by a typical Labor budget full of tricky accounting and financial mismanagement. They have been let down by a secretive Labor government that refuses to release important reports into our health system. They have been let down by a Labor government that has done very little in the last three budgets to improve patient outcomes. We hear the minister saying, 'We are matching what you did in government.' They are not improving what we did. Our focus is always on improving outcomes.

Shamefully, this year's budget has seen state funding growth shrink to just three per cent compared to 14 per cent growth from the Commonwealth. Let us go through that again. We hear all the time from the health minister that the feds are supposedly cutting out money, and I will come to that later. There has been 14 per cent growth from the Commonwealth and three per cent growth from the state. This budget also shows critical health infrastructure is not being provided, which is reflected by an underspend in the Queensland Health capital budget of \$196.5 million in the past year. It is concerning that Labor is short-changing our health system which has been plagued by a number of serious issues under Labor.

Labor's election budget is nothing but an attempt to distract Queenslanders from the real issues impacting our state. In fact, let us have a look at the record of the health minister, Cameron Dick, as health minister as he attempts to make the case that he should be given another three years. Queenslanders know that this budget is simply a con, a swindle, and does nothing to fix the significant issues highlighted in the Service Delivery Statements. Since Labor's election, Queenslanders have been waiting for meaningful action from the government to deliver better health services. By the look of this budget they will have to wait for the LNP to deliver them. In 2016-17 under Labor 20 per cent of Queenslanders seeking emergency care were made to wait in the car park. Logan Hospital, which services the constituents of the health minister and child safety minister, has consistently been ranked the worst performing in this state, the latest statistics showing that 37 per cent of patients arriving by ambulance were left waiting for more than 30 minutes. This is not fair to our ambulance staff or our hospital staff. In fact, just last week a man admitted to driving himself to the hospital after having a heart attack because the last time he was there he was left in the back of the ambulance in the car park. This is very telling of the lack of confidence Queenslanders are beginning to have in our health system under Labor. Redland, RBW, Caboolture, Gold Coast, Robina and Redcliffe hospitals are amongst the worst performing in the state. Once again, no leadership from the top is not helping our ambulance or health workers.

Disappointingly, Labor is still refusing to provide any meaningful action to fix this issue that is affecting Queenslanders seeking urgent medical attention. The LNP knows that ramping can be addressed and that is because it was the LNP that was able to significantly reduce ramping across Queensland hospitals. In our last full year in office, 2013-14, 90 per cent of all patients were off stretcher within 32 minutes of arrival at hospitals across Queensland. This is compared to 81 per cent in 2011-12 and is in stark contrast to the 80 per cent that occurred last year, 2016-17, under this do-nothing Labor government.

Ramping is worse now under the Palaszczuk Labor government than when the LNP took office in 2012. The devastating impact of hospital ramping means poor patient care and less ambulances on the road able to respond and save lives. Under Labor, patients arriving by ambulance are not the only ones left waiting for emergency care: 24 per cent of patients were left languishing longer than four hours

in emergency departments. In 2015-16, 27 per cent of category 2 ED patients and 37 per cent of category 3 patients were not seen within the clinically recommended times. This is a frightening figure for Queenslanders who should expect to be seen reasonably quickly during emergency situations, as well as for our front-line staff who want to deliver the best service they can.

Front-line emergency service workers and their families are not holding their breath waiting for action from the Palaszczuk Labor government to prevent paramedic assaults. In fact, Labor's only plan has been outlined this week by the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services in a letter to the *Gympie Times*. That plan was to do nothing. The minister thinks that the current legislation, which in their term has seen no custodial sentences handed out to those who assault our hardworking emergency service workers, is sufficient. He even had the arrogance to criticise the LNP for taking action on this serious issue.

Mr Mander: He misrepresented it.

Mr LANGBROEK: He misrepresented it, absolutely, and then said he is not going to change anything. Our policy of minimum mandatory sentencing was created in consultation with front-line staff to stop them from being used as punching bags. To date Labor has done nothing and, based on the minister's comments, they have no intention of implementing any plans to ensure that offenders get more than a slap on the wrist.

I have outlined just a few of the issues our paramedics and patients face every day, yet the ambulance service has had an underspend of \$10.215 million in the last financial year. Labor should and could have done more to improve the service and the situation our front-line staff are in.

When in government the LNP introduced the wait-time surgery guarantee because patients deserve to be seen on time to receive potentially lifesaving surgery. Labor has just played politics with our waiting lists, which has resulted in almost half of category 1 and category 2 outpatients waiting longer than clinically recommended. Vaccination rates were also missed for all three categories—children under one, children under two and children under five years.

Central Queenslanders have been left waiting for a much needed cardiac clinic in the region. In fact, they have been waiting for almost 2½ years since expressions of interest closed. The people of Rockhampton and regional Queenslanders are forced to travel to Brisbane to seek lifesaving care.

Many rural and regional Queenslanders, like those in Rockhampton or Emerald, where we were a couple of weeks ago, are required to travel for specialist care and are likely to have trouble seeking reimbursement through the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme. I am pleased to see that there has been an acknowledgement of the efforts of regional members of the LNP and the issues that I highlighted recently to see that funding maintained for the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme. A recent ombudsman's report highlighted significant issues with the scheme, specifically the fact that it is not patient friendly in terms of making claims and that delays in reimbursement are causing people claiming the PTSS financial stress and sometimes hardship.

The LNP doubled funding to the scheme when in government to improve accessibility and we are still waiting for this Brisbane-centric Labor government to step up to the plate and improve the PTSS and deliver improved services to our regions. The Brisbane-centric Labor government provides regional and rural Queenslanders with a few delayed breadcrumbs when it comes to the PTSS.

Mums and bubs are also being let down by Labor, with failures in management leading to baby deaths, birth injuries and stressed midwives at hospitals across the state. Maternity consumers from the Redlands to Toowoomba, Emerald, Cooktown and Cairns are telling me that there are significant disparities in care and rules surrounding independent midwives between HHSs. A very good example is between the Gold Coast University Hospital and the Redlands and Logan hospitals. The Gold Coast University Hospital has now introduced a rule where women have to come from a certain area to be allowed to attend. That is creating a lot of problems for people who may have attended there for previous births with independent midwives and now no longer can. The Labor government's lack of leadership and management in this space is triggering these serious issues.

The health minister has also refused to release vital reports into our mental health system. So how much for openness, honesty and transparency. We are still waiting for the report into the Moorooka bus incident and for Labor to publicly release another report outlining recommendations after a woman fell pregnant at The Park mental health facility. It is bizarre that the Labor government that loves to commission reports also refuses to release many of the findings to Queenslanders who are impacted by these issues.

Frustratingly, we had to wait almost a year to read the Mental Health Commissioner report released at the end of May, 11 months after the end of the last financial year. This is critical information in the face of a mental health system that has lurched from crisis to crisis under Labor. In under 12 months we have had claims of nepotism, unlawful appointments and the resignation of the chair of the mental health tribunal. The minister pushed an amendment through the House at the eleventh hour to validate 11,000 cases that were presided over by an unqualified legal member without review.

The mental health report reveals some damning information on the state of our mental health system. Queenslanders would be shocked to know that some 1,387 patients on strict orders were out in the community committing crimes whilst supposedly being supervised. Only 13 per cent of matters were dealt with in the statutory time frame of 21 days for criminal matters needing referral by the director of mental health. This is simply not good enough. The cynical late Friday release of the report, a couple of weeks ago, shows the minister is more interested in cover-up than accountability when it comes to our mental health system. This report is confirmation our mental health system is in crisis and with a record number of patients on orders things look set to get worse.

While vital reviews have been withheld, the minister has been happy to provide some unusual performance measures. Under Labor's bizarre agenda the budget papers have resorted to reporting on—wait for it—the percentage of Queenslanders eating fruit and vegetables as a performance measure. This just highlights the government's desperation to show positive performance figures in a report that is pretty damning for the government.

If we have learnt one thing about the health minister, Cameron Dick, and the Labor government, it is that they never like to admit that they are to blame. A prime example of this is when the Cairns Hospital and Health Service blew their budget—just a couple of months after this time last year—by \$80 million because of Labor's mismanagement. One would think that the minister would take some responsibility after this crisis, but instead the entire board took the fall. Apparently the buck does not stop with the minister under Labor.

Page 32 of the 2015-16 Queensland state budget Service Delivery Statements for the Department of Health provides at dot point 11 a glowing assessment of the LNP's management of the health system whilst we were in government. It reads—

This commitment has been demonstrated through significant improvements in productivity and efficiency which have led to the generation of surpluses over the last three years while still delivering increased activity across the system. This control will be maintained over the current financial year.

That is an endorsement of what the LNP did whilst in government. Under the LNP, HHSs achieved a \$19 million surplus in 2014-15, which was to be reinvested in more services locally with HHSs having the autonomy to do what was best for their communities.

Now we are seeing Queensland Health providing \$70 million over 2016-17 and 2017-18 to ensure liquidity in Cairns. The Cairns HHS budget crisis is terminal and slipping further and further into deficit. Multimillion dollar deficits mean services to sick people will have to be cut just to balance the books. It is clear from this year's budget that the HHS is teetering on the edge of bankruptcy. In this instance, something has to give. The sick and injured of Cairns will continue to suffer because of Labor's poor management of health services in Cairns. The Cairns HHS covers a very vast region of Far North Queensland—up to 250,000 Queenslanders.

Whilst Cairns HHS hangs on by a thread, Labor has managed to put a cog in the works in projects across the state. Labor has abandoned its so-called flagship Advancing Queensland Infrastructure Program as it underspent by \$11.6 million. The people of Aramac are still waiting for their health redevelopment, with works delayed by a \$600,000 underspend in 2016-17. Labor has abandoned the people of Aurukun again with a \$3.5 million underspend and delay in delivering their health redevelopment. In Cairns, once again, the last stage of the Cairns Hospital redevelopment has been delayed with a \$5 million underspend in 2016-17.

Regional hospitals missed out on more than \$22.2 million in promised capital works funding in 2016-17. The Rockhampton Hospital expansion was delayed with a \$5 million underspend. ICT spending in capital has blown out by \$15 million in 2017-18 to more than \$135 million. That is the ieMR system and the Hibiscus system that are due to be replaced. There are issues constantly in IT in Health. Everyone knows about Labor and their association with IT and the Health payroll system. Under this Labor minister and poor budget management supplies and services also blew out by \$680 million in 2016-17.

When the health minister is not blaming winter—winter is coming—the HHSs or even the former LNP government for his shortfall, he is quick to blame the feds. Let us take a look at what the federal LNP government has delivered for Queensland Health. Commonwealth funding to Queensland

hospitals is at record levels. Commonwealth funding for Queensland hospitals will increase from \$3.1 billion in 2014-15 to \$3.9 billion in 2016-17 to over \$4.8 billion in 2020-21. This means Commonwealth funding to Queensland hospitals will have increased by 57.5 per cent since 2014-15. That means more hospitals, more doctors and services for Queenslanders if the Labor government can get it right.

This new funding is part of a new hospitals agreement signed and agreed to by the Queensland government in 2016. The Queensland Premier and Treasurer issued a media release on 1 April 2016 announcing the agreement and stating that Queensland had negotiated to secure extra funding from the Commonwealth. Minister Dick signed the agreement on 30 November 2016 establishing the allocation of funding by hospitals in Queensland. Labor has been quick to cry crocodile tears about the latest federal budget, claiming that there has been a \$10 billion cut to Health. Bill Shorten cannot even back the claim and has refused to back its \$57 billion unfunded hospital promise. It is not in their budget.

The health minister should hang his head in shame. This budget is a con job and a swindle and it does nothing to fix the significant issues highlighted in the Service Delivery Statements. In fact, the Service Delivery Statements show that delays and underspending are the Labor way. It also shows that for the past three budgets Labor has had its 'Brisbane blinkers' on. This year they want to deliver the Cross River Rail for Brisbane at the cost of regional and rural Queenslanders across the state who get nothing.

Only the LNP can deliver a world-class health system, not just for Brisbane but for all Queenslanders. We will focus on all of our customers and our patients, our doctors and nurses, our allied health workers and our emergency service workers to make sure that Queenslanders get the best outcomes. We are not just talking about more money. It is about making sure that we can get more done with it, supporting our front-line workers and making sure that Queenslanders end up with the best health outcomes for them and for future generations.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (3.30 pm): This is a very strong budget for this state. It is a budget that understands the needs of this state in the short term and it is a budget that understands the needs of this state in the medium and long term as well. It is a budget that from our point of view is delivering on infrastructure in this state right across Queensland, not just in the south-east as the opposition would allege. You obviously do not travel the state too much if you think that. You obviously do not see, for instance, the Riverway Drive project going on in Townsville. You do not see the Bill Fulton Bridge happening in Cairns. You do not see the Urraween intersection—long promised by the previous government but never delivered—actually funded and delivered by Labor because of the member for Maryborough. You do not see the Rocky beef roads being upgraded because of the member for Rockhampton. This year we have the two M1 upgrades starting after three years of inaction by the previous government. Despite them having every Gold Coast MP, they delivered nothing for the Gold Coast—absolutely zero. No wonder they de-preselected one of their Gold Coast members, because they are absolutely hopeless.

We funded the upgrade to the Ipswich Motorway and early works are underway. The Mackay ring-road will start this year. That is a mammoth project—half a billion dollars worth of road. Then we will put a bolt on the Walkerston bypass—another project long promised by many but delivered in the region by this government on top of the Peak Downs Highway upgrades and the timber bridge replacements. There is the Tinana interchange, near Maryborough. There is the restoration of the TIDS funding and it is locked in. We delivered it a year early—a year earlier than what our election commitment was to restore the funding ripped out of roads by the Newman government under the member for Clayfield as treasurer. I had a line-up of mayors, blocks long, at local government events complaining about road funding being ripped out by the previous government. We restored that funding. We brought it in a year earlier than our election commitment and we have locked it in for a number of years ahead to give local governments certainty. We have seen a record QTRIP program under this government—the second in a row for this government. We have a very proud record of delivering on roads across Queensland.

This budget is about providing work and jobs and incomes for Queenslanders. We saw a record unemployment level—an 11-year high—under the member for Clayfield when he was the treasurer under the previous government. It was a 7.1 per cent—that is a seven in front of it!—unemployment record delivered by the LNP under the previous government. No wonder they try to talk about jobs because they are covering up their tracks on their appalling record of letting Queenslanders down, not just sacking 14,000 of them but also absolutely destroying the economy by ripping so many incomes out of the Queensland economy in one go. You do not have to be Einstein to work that one out. It

seemed to be beyond the member for Clayfield and the then member for Ashgrove to understand basic economics. In fact, one of the great failures of the previous Newman government was that they had a record majority in Australian history and they lost after one term. What does that tell you about their competency of managing the economy? It tells us a lot.

Their record is appalling on jobs. Under this government we have seen the unemployment rate come down. In fact, I have heard the LNP talk about infrastructure a lot in the last six to nine months in this place, trying to find something to talk about. Here we are with Cross River Rail—something that governments have failed for years and years to deliver, a second inner-city rail crossing. You have to have more than one inner-city rail crossing for 2½ million people. It is basic policy and economics. When we actually deliver it, they squirm around and slide out, trying to find any excuse saying, 'Oh, well—no, well—we can't do this.' Joh would have been proud of them. The Cross River Rail will be a transformational project right across South-East Queensland. People on the Gold Coast and the Sunshine Coast will benefit from much faster travel times. Even people on the other lines will see marked improvements in their travel times. We will see modal shifts for some people where it is marginal, and that will free up road space right across the road network in South-East Queensland.

I say to the LNP in their opposition to the Cross River Rail project: good luck on that one. There are seven stations in the seat of Clayfield. I am sure they are going to be really impressed to hear that the member for Clayfield is opposing Cross River Rail when they and every commuter right across South-East Queensland will be a major beneficiary of it. Whether you are at Ipswich or the Redlands or on the Gold Coast or the Sunshine Coast, everyone will benefit from it.

Let me address the budget's investments in the energy space and how important they are. We saw a week of shock-and-awe energy announcements from this government leading into the COAG agreement—and something that was very well received in the energy market, I can assure members. It started off with us slashing by more than half the proposed electricity price increase from the QCA from 7.1 per cent to 3.3 per cent, with a \$770 million investment. I am sure that some of those LNP members who lost their seats at the last election would have looked on that one with envy and thought, 'I wish we had done that. That might have saved my seat. I might still have been in parliament if only I had a competent treasurer who acted on electricity prices when he had the chance.' No, they lost. One of the key reasons they lost is that they mismanaged electricity, they mismanaged electricity prices and they did not deliver. I know because I had thousands of conversations on doorsteps and in phone calls, and it came up time and time again about how the Newman government and the then treasurer, the member for Clayfield, did not deliver for them. It was a key reason.

We are investing in a range of things. We are investing in the North Queensland clean energy hub. We have clean energy projects coming out of our ears in North Queensland. They want to bolt into the grid. Do you know why they want to bolt into the grid? It is because that is the cheapest form of energy production that exists now—something the LNP has not caught up with and has no idea about. We have a range of solar power stations under construction at the moment at Kidston and Sun Metals, with others about to start at Clare and Ross River. There are three in Collinsville. They are using the old Collinsville power station equipment to plug into the grid. That was the one that was closed down under the Newman government, I might add, on their watch.

We are absolutely committed to Burdekin hydro to get more hydro into our grid. We are bringing back Swanbank E to make sure that we have greater capacity in the market. We are delivering supply to make sure that we are ready for any heatwave or any extreme weather event, to make sure that we have maximum capacity generation not just for the extreme events but to get the wholesale price down. We had a three-pronged attack on the wholesale price. Let us be clear about the reasons for that. There are three key reasons why that happened. Firstly, the federal policy uncertainty by Tony Abbott is flowing through the system now. Refusing to set the renewable energy target for 18 months saw investment drop off 88 per cent. That lag in the system is coming through at exactly the same time as Hazelwood shuts down—a huge generator at 1,600 megawatts. At the same time we had a big spike because of two massive heatwaves on the eastern coast. At a critical time there was a spike in the price.

We have attacked and knocked that wholesale price right down with a three-pronged approach: putting Swanbank E back on; turning our two government owned generators into three, with a 'CleanCo' to concentrate on renewables and increase competition in the marketplace; and directing Stanwell to be profitable but to pump out more volume. What did the market do? I was informed that the wholesale forward prices move around roughly only about one per cent maximum per day. It dropped 10 per cent—that is 10 per cent—because we acted, we showed leadership and we understand the energy market.

In this budget we also invest heavily in key parts of our supply chain such as our ports. In Townsville the channel widening has been very well received up there. We are setting up that port for bigger ships to come into North Queensland instead of bypassing North Queensland. We will be ready for them because we are investing in our ports and we are keeping them in public hands. We have a realistic plan for the Cairns port. We are already seeing more cruise ships coming in. We do not see the crazy plan that was there under the Newman government. We see realistic port expansion opportunities because of the leadership of the Treasurer, the member for Mulgrave, and this government. We also see investment in Townsville Water of \$225 million. I know that the members for Townsville, Thuringowa and Mundingburra have all played a key part in delivering for the Townsville community, and that is very important.

This budget is about a consistent government that is steady, stable, does what it says it is going to do, has a real leader whom people trust, whom people have faith in and who maintains that faith every day. She does not flip-flop around like the member for Clayfield. She keeps her election promises and she is adamant about it. That is what people respect in this state. That is what they are not getting under the LNP who have learnt nothing from the defeat they received.

Let me make this very key observation. If you want to be Premier of this state, you have to understand the economy. If you want to understand the economy, you have to understand the energy sector. What was very clear from the interview with Steve Austin the other morning is that the lazy member for Clayfield has no understanding of the energy market whatsoever. He showed his true colours. He has been a member of this place for 12 years, he was the treasurer and shareholding minister for three, and his description of hydro in this state was 'there was a little hydro in North Queensland'—one; a little hydro. He did not understand basic energy infrastructure information that anybody who has been in the ministry should know. Any minister should know that.

He also showed a total misunderstanding of electricity prices. He said that electricity prices were locked in when he was in government. That is not how it works. How it works is that there is a determination by the regulator, the QCA recommends a price and it is up to the government to accept the price or not. He accepted prices and did not do anything about electricity prices in the three years he was in government. Double-digit price increases were the norm and that is why they lost.

We have directed twice in just over two years our government owned corporation to back in electricity consumers in this state. The first time it was about the first determination to make sure they did not legal up like privatised companies in other states to get more money out of consumers. We told them to cop it sweet and pass it on to electricity consumers, and people benefited from that. That is leadership. That is something the member for Clayfield never did in the three years he was in government. That is why the LNP lost. That is why so many members on the other side lost their seats, and they still will not apologise or even acknowledge the problem. I say to them, 'Good luck on that front.'

The member for Clayfield is living in the past when it comes to energy. Dr Finkel, the Chief Scientist of this country, just finished a review of the national electricity market. He said to the Senate Estimates committee less than two weeks ago that it is now not just a bit but a lot more expensive to build new coal-fired generation than it is to build large-scale renewables. The member for Clayfield seems to think he knows more than the Chief Scientist and the reviewer of our national electricity market. It is a nonsense. If you do not understand the energy market, you cannot run the economy. That is the key point.

The lazy member for Clayfield has shown his true colours. He does not do his research. He does not understand the energy market. He does not understand that the cheapest form of generation is large-scale renewable energy. That is why we have 17 projects happening in Queensland right now. We have 11 renewable power stations coming into North Queensland and we never hear the Leader of the Opposition refer to it. As far as he is concerned, it is not happening; it is invisible. He has no comment on it. It is an emerging factor. It is a pivotal time in our economy and our energy sector, and the member for Clayfield ignores it. He is no better than the member for Whitsunday, and that is saying something.

What we are seeing from the opposition is fearmongering about renewable energy when we have a 50 per cent target. Dr Finkel's report recommends a 42 per cent renewable energy mix by 2030—appointed by the Turnbull government; very much in the ballpark of 50 per cent. They are ignoring the clean energy boom—\$2 billion worth of investment coming into Queensland and 2,000 jobs. They never refer to it. They are not interested. They do not understand. They do not want to know about it. Nostalgia is not enough. I might add that being derivative, imitative and mimicking other people is not leadership.

If you listen to the member for Clayfield's speech, that is exactly what he did. He mimicked Tony Abbott when he said 'dead, buried and cremated'. He cannot even come up with original metaphors. He has to mimic failed prime minister Tony Abbott, who is also living in another era when it comes to energy.

It is not enough to imitate; you have to innovate. It is not enough to be petulant; you have to be consistent. That is what we are getting from this government and what we are not getting from the member for Clayfield. He says that there will be no asset sales, there will be no TIDS cuts, there will be no road cuts and they will not sack public servants, but have we not heard all of that before? We have. Do you remember the phrase 'no asset sales without a mandate'? What happened? They did it anyway. They said 'no asset sales without a mandate' and yet they did it anyway. They ignored people. They thought, 'We have 78 seats; we can do whatever we want.' They are arrogant and cannot be trusted, and they are trying it again. The great cutters are accusing others of cutting. It is the oldest trick in the book.

We also saw an entire speech with not a single plan for the Great Barrier Reef. There was one reference to the past. There was not one positive policy about the Great Barrier Reef other than to lock in high carbon emissions for a generation and a half and cook the Great Barrier Reef. That is the only policy the LNP have. They are the great pretenders. In fact, some of The Pretenders songs come to me in relation to the LNP. *Stop Your Sobbing* comes to mind. *I Hurt You* is another classic Pretenders song that great pretenders probably like, as is *Mystery Achievement*. It is pretty hard to work out what they have actually achieved.

I want to address the opposition's allegation that there has been a cut to roads funding. There have been no cuts to road funding in this budget. They are not telling the truth whatsoever. What we are seeing is the normal budgetary process where there are timing adjustments in any budget. This year we have seen considerable savings in the construction market. We have seen a lot of federal inaction on roads. We have had to fight with the federal LNP to get a fair deal for the M1 and a fair deal for Northern Australia roads and beef roads in this state. We have also seen the impact of Cyclone Debbie, a category 4 cyclone, which played havoc with a range of our road projects. What we are seeing is the LNP once again trying to cover up their appalling roads record in a desperate attempt to reboost their credibility.

The member for Clayfield in his speech said that they will grant priority project status to a new economically viable, low-emission, ultra-supercritical coal-fired power station. Firstly, they are not economically viable compared to large-scale renewables and they are not low emission. Carbon capture is hideously expensive. It has been trialled in this state and the cost is in the billions. There is a reason why 17 large-scale renewable projects are being put up and not carbon capture. It is because it does not make any economic sense. He does not understand energy. He does not understand the economy. If people want a real dose of 43 per cent price increases for electricity, 7½ per cent on public transport and a flatlining economy and growing unemployment, then voting for the member for Clayfield will be a classic way of doing it.

Let me finish with a couple of things. The first is One Nation. This government will never deal with One Nation. We will never be a weak government that grovels to a minor party with extreme policies. What we saw from the Leader of the Opposition were weasel words and slippery words about dealing with One Nation. They will do the deal, they will do the preferences, they will grovel for their support. It is weak leadership. One Nation has got economic policies that will cost jobs all over this state. The opposition seem to be on a unity ticket on renewable energy with One Nation, that is for sure. Their policy positions are almost identical, but that will not be any good for the 2,000 clean energy jobs coming to this state.

This is a very strong budget. It is a strong budget for jobs, for fairness, for the economy and for our energy sector. It is time that the LNP caught up with the fact that it is 2017, not 1917, and came up with a modern, contemporary platform.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (3.50 pm): It is quite humbling to follow an intellectual genius of the type of the member for Yeerongpilly. He is an expert in everything, from economics to rocket science. It is particularly overwhelming to follow him.

I rise today to speak about the 2017-18 budget. Despite the skyrocketing crime rates across Queensland, the Palaszczuk government's 2017-18 budget reveals that Labor has failed once again to deliver for our police services. Crime is on the rise.

Mr Harper interjected.

Mr MANDER: I will take that interjection from the member for Thuringowa. We have youth crime that is out of control in North Queensland and Far North Queensland, we have crime on the rise right across the state and we have the bikies back in control on the Gold Coast. Yet Annastacia Palaszczuk and this current police minister are happy to underspend in the Queensland Police Service.

Let us look at the statistics that really matter—the statistics that show what this government have been doing in this area, or what they have not been doing, and what they will be judged upon by the Queensland people. In the past year, personal safety offences have increased by 11.8 per cent, which includes assault by 12 per cent and robbery by 32 per cent. In the past year, property offences have increased by 11.9 per cent, which includes break-ins by 13 per cent and car thefts by 22.8 per cent. These figures are damning and these are what everyday Queenslanders are experiencing on a daily rate.

Despite these escalating crime rates, the capital budget for police was also significantly underspent, meaning that our front-line police are not getting the support and the equipment they need to keep Queenslanders safe. The capital budget underspend for the past year was \$26.285 million. That was on top of the road safety underspend for the past year, which was \$32.625 million. How that money could have been spent, but it has not been. Unbelievably, when we look at the forward projections, for next year the QPS budget will be actually going backwards. There will be no boasting about record spends in the police budget for next year. This is a government that makes big promises but fails to deliver.

Despite its constant crowing about being transparent and accountable, this government plans to cover up vital information in future budgets that the public deserves to know. This year the budget hid important figures, such as police car purchases, but next year the cover-up continues with the budget failing to record individual crime statistics. Only last year we heard of a significant shortfall in the number of additional police vehicles being supplied to the service, and this year that measure is not even reported. Equally disturbing, crime statistics are being hidden after this year's state budget. The Service Delivery Statements usually report a breakdown of offences per 100,000 people. None of that will occur in the coming year. Crime rates should be the most important service standard for the Queensland police. Their No. 1 job is to protect the community, which is why scrapping this measure from next year's budget is quite concerning and quite unbelievable.

Only an LNP government will support the police to the level that they require. We gave an extra 1,100 police over four years—something that was very welcomed by them and by the community. This budget talks about a pathetic 20 additional general purpose police and 20 extra police in the Townsville area. What does the Gold Coast think of that, where they are so concerned about the bikies being back in town, about the population growth and—

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr MANDER: I will take that interjection from the member for Mudgeeraba—there are higher rates of DV and that affects the police time that is appropriately needed to deal with those issues. They are crying out for extra police and they will see nothing in this budget for them whatsoever.

Only an LNP government will provide the laws that give the police the powers that they need. It was the tough anti-criminal gang laws that we brought in that stopped the bikies. We brought in the laws that the police asked for. We brought in the laws that proved to be effective—the anti-association laws; the stop, search and detain laws; the closing down of the bikie clubhouses. These laws worked, but the new soft-on-crime Labor laws have seen the bikies starting to become bolder, starting to claim the streets of the Gold Coast, starting again to brawl in daylight.

Ms Bates: Meth labs everywhere.

Mr MANDER: I will take that interjection again from the member for Mudgeeraba—meth labs are everywhere. The bikies will be back—they are already back—but we will see more and more and more activity.

We were the only ones who were game enough to respond to the juvenile crime issue. I am sure my colleague the shadow Attorney-General will speak in detail about this. We heard the cries of the North Queensland members of parliament from the last parliament, the 54th Parliament, when they talked about the out-of-control youth crime that was there. We brought in reforms and they were working. We said that juvenile repeat offenders—not someone who has done it once, twice or three times, but someone who has repeatedly snubbed their nose at the law—would be named and shamed. We have also said that it is absolute common sense that breach of bail should be an offence for juvenile offenders. That is common sense and what the public expects. We also believe that jail is not

necessarily a last resort for these people. Some of these people need to be detained. Why? It is so the public can be protected. The No. 1 priority of the government and the police force is to protect the public.

We also strongly believe that our police and our front-line emergency service personnel should be protected and should not be treated as punching bags. A recent article in the *Townsville Bulletin* detailed the assaults on police officers. It stated—

Latest police statistics reveal officers in the Northern Region, from Townsville to Mount Isa and Cairns, have been assaulted 474 times between last July and April 30 this year.

I repeat: 474 times. The article continued—

Townsville Acting Superintendent Roger Whyte said he was regularly briefed on assaults on police officers.

'There's not one Monday when I come to work that I'm not briefed on one of my officers being assaulted,' ... 'Regardless of whether one of my police officers cops a slap in the face, or a kick in the groin or a smack on the head, it is totally, utterly, unacceptable.'

We agree with that, as does the president of the Queensland Police Union and their members. The article stated—

Mr Leavers called on minimum custodial sentencing for offenders.

What response do we see from the current minister? We see these letters that he sent around to regional newspapers totally misrepresenting the policy that we will bring in when we win government. That is, if people assault a police officer, if they assault a paramedic—and, Mr Deputy Speaker Crawford, you know yourself because you have worked in this field—or if they assault a fire officer who is doing their job, they will spend time in jail. They will spend a minimum seven days in jail—no ifs, no buts about it. They will go to jail.

We want to send a clear message to our police, paramedics and firefighters that we value them, we support them and we have their backs. What do we hear from the current minister? In this letter to the editor, the current minister brags about the fact that the maximum sentence for assault on police has been increased from seven to 14 years. Who did that? We did that when we were in government! They would never have thought about doing that, but now he claims it. Then he misrepresents the situation, saying that our new policy means that that is all somebody will get for serious assault. He knows that is misrepresenting the situation. What does he say to the police officer who was coward punched by Memefata Asiata, who was convicted and received an 18-month probation noncustodial sentence and walked out of the courtroom scot-free? The minister is telling the police officer who was coward punched that that sentence—not even seven days imprisonment—is good enough for that assault.

I can tell the House and the police minister that we will promote this policy far and wide. We will tell members of the public that we back our police, we back our paramedics and we back our firefighters. It is completely unacceptable to touch one of those people. If you do that and you are convicted of serious assault, you will spend time in the slammer for a minimum of seven days. Only a Tim Nicholls Liberal National government will build stronger families and provide safe and livable communities.

Unfortunately, the same thing continues with Queensland Fire and Emergency Services. Again we have a capital budget underspend of \$3.033 million. I have not seen the details of the press conference that the minister gave today, which I am sure was about additional equipment for rural fire services, but that is not new money. It is money that was promised last year in the forward estimates. They have simply brought it forward. It is another con job. They treat the Queensland public as if they are mugs, but they will not be conned. They will not be sucked in by this government. They can see through it because they know a con job when they see it.

I will talk briefly about my electorate of Everton. I am bitterly disappointed that once again there is no funding for the upgrade of the intersection of South Pine Road and Stafford Road, outside my office, which is a known bottleneck on the north-west side of Brisbane that affects electorates such as Pine Rivers, Murrumba and Aspley. In that growth area, it is a renowned bottleneck. Last night the parliament condemned the government for its underspend in Main Roads—

Mr Minnikin: Historic.

Mr MANDER: I take the interjection from the member for Chatsworth: an historic motion was passed last night, condemning the government for its underspend in the Main Roads area. Instead, we see this billion dollar fairytale that is Cross River Rail. That money will never come through this Queensland government. I know that the electors of Everton, Aspley, Pine Rivers, Kallangur, Murrumba

and Ferny Grove would much rather that \$100 million of those billions of dollars be invested in upgrading that intersection, which is mentioned on the radio every morning as being congested. People are sick and tired of it. This budget is a failure. It is a con job. Queenslanders will not be sucked in by it.

 **Hon. CJ O'ROURKE** (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Disability Services, Minister for Seniors and Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland) (4.04 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Appropriation Bill 2017. This year's budget again focuses on the people of Queensland and jobs. It is a budget that benefits people all over the state, people of all abilities and all ages, because it is Queenslanders who make this state great. Queenslanders of all abilities make this state great and, as Minister for Disability Services, I am proud of our government, which has made a record commitment of \$1.887 billion into disability services and the NDIS rollout, which is a more than 10 per cent increase on our previous budget.

A large part of that plan is the \$548.9 million that we are contributing towards the NDIS rollout. The scale of the NDIS reform has thrown significant challenges at the National Disability Insurance Agency, but I am proud that the Queensland government is committed to addressing any challenges and has invested in the scheme in such a way that we can bring people in Ipswich, Bundaberg and Rockhampton who are currently funded by the state into the NDIS earlier than originally planned. We are also building on our partnerships with service providers across the state by putting \$8.3 million towards building their capabilities to assist Queenslanders entering the NDIS.

In addition to the NDIS rollout, this government's budget continues to support people with disability who still access state services. We are allocating \$14.8 million to make sure people with disability can purchase aids, equipment and vehicle modifications to help them access their communities. The Palaszczuk government has committed \$7 million for our school leavers with a disability to give them the support they need in the next stage of their lives; \$2.2 million for innovative and sustainable housing to give peace of mind and security to ageing parents and their adult children with disability; and \$1.6 million to help people with spinal cord injuries leave the Princess Alexandra Hospital. All of those investments are for initiatives that will better people's lives.

Queenslanders of all ages, especially our seniors, also make Queensland great. Seniors have contributed and continue to contribute to our society in many ways. We are giving back to them by delivering the largest seniors budget Queensland has ever seen. Building on from our last two budgets, this financial year we are spending \$12 million in funding for seniors services, which is up by more than 22 per cent from last year. We have continued our \$6.1 million four-year investment to roll out our Queensland: an age-friendly community strategy. We are also continuing our \$1 million per year investment over three years for our Advancing Queensland: an age-friendly community grants program to kickstart innovative projects that will help and support our seniors.

As people age, their housing needs change and so do their financial circumstances. We have allocated \$500,000 over the next two years to address recommendations by the Advisory Task Force on the Residential Transition for Ageing Queenslanders. We are also tackling elder abuse in our communities by providing a \$2.7 million boost over three years to broaden elder abuse prevention and seniors legal and support services to regional and remote areas, as well as the Gold Coast and the Sunshine Coast. Unfortunately, the elder community can fall foul of financial scams, so we are investing \$400,000 in expanding the statewide seniors inquiry line with a strong focus on consumer protections and scams. We have stepped in and increased funding for concessions, including electricity, gas, water and rates, by \$27.9 million from last year to a total of \$290 million. We owe so much to those who built our communities, raised us and guided us. We want their time to be spent with their families and in the communities that they live in, not worrying about how they will pay their bills.

Queenslanders from the north of the state also make this state great. This government has accepted its responsibility to North Queensland families, businesses and communities and we have invested in the north as a priority. In this year's budget, the decision of our government was to continue to put jobs front and centre. For North Queenslanders, the Palaszczuk Labor government has invested in projects that will invest in the people of our regions.

As I outlined in this House yesterday, we have invested in our people through an extra \$50 million in our Back to Work program; another \$200 million in our extremely successful Works for Queensland program; and a more than \$3 billion investment in infrastructure across the five regions that North Queensland is part of, acknowledging the importance of the north to the success of the whole state. Importantly for me, our government's action on water and energy security for North Queensland will benefit the people of my electorate of Mundingburra. Water and energy infrastructure are at the heart of what the people of the north want action on. We have delivered \$225 million towards water security

for Townsville and \$386 million for the North Queensland plan, so there will be no more uncertainty. This government has invested in the people and businesses of Mundingburra in many other areas that will improve lives and livelihoods.

This money will mean jobs. We are making sure that our kids are going to schools that are modern and purpose-built, and we are doing this by spending \$1.2 million to upgrade our local schools including Mundingburra State School, Heatley State School, Heatley Secondary College and Aitkenvale State School. We have allocated \$5 million for the redevelopment of the Townsville Hospital so that we are ready for future patients and, importantly for women and the families who love them, we have provided \$1.6 million to relocate the Townsville Hospital BreastScreen clinic to a better site to improve the flow of patients. I am proud to say that Mundingburra is getting money to build the facilities and services that the community needs.

I would like to reiterate my thanks to the Premier, Deputy Premier, Treasurer and my ministerial colleagues for their support and for working closely with me to deliver for people with disabilities, seniors and the people of Mundingburra. I am proud to be part of a government that has listened to the people we represent. We have acted. I commend the budget to the House.

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (4.11 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate of the Appropriation Bill 2017. This budget is a typical Labor budget. It is a con job for Queenslanders and a shameless abandonment of my electorate of Mudgeeraba. It is a desperate attempt to shore up Labor seats before the next election while the rest of the state is blatantly ignored. Worst of all, it is a budget which is too little, too late for Queensland's most vulnerable children and families. With a rail fail, email scandal, child safety and domestic violence crisis, Adani indecision, infrastructure cuts, economic mismanagement and price hikes, locals know this is a do-nothing Labor government. With this budget, over the next four years the cost of living will go up and debt will increase, jobs will be lost and the economy will stall. This is a budget that does nothing for Queensland except bring more debt and more uncertainty.

Nowhere is there more evidence of Labor's incompetence than in the budget for the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services. We can clearly see that in the past 12 months Labor has massively underspent on capital works across the portfolio by almost \$18 million. What is worse is that a \$6.8 million deficit is predicted for 2017-18. Meanwhile, Child Safety budgets are shrouded in secrecy. Just over three pages have been provided to explain how the department is spending \$1.1 billion of taxpayers' money. What are this Labor government and this Labor minister trying to hide? This year's budget is too little, too late to fix the crisis in Child Safety. In this budget we see a six per cent cost blowout in out-of-home care; the rate of Indigenous children in care is five times higher than for any other children; 62 per cent of kids exiting care had more than two placements; and there are only six performance measures and three pages of analysis for a \$1.1 billion Child Safety budget. This is too little, too late for the thousands of kids with broken hearts who have been waiting for Child Safety to come knocking. It is too little, too late for the child safety officers who walked away from the department and it is too little, too late for the 10 young people known to Child Safety who took their own lives in the last 12 months.

For 16 of the last 19 years Labor has been in charge of protecting our most vulnerable children. In that 16 years we have seen a crisis in care leading to the Forde inquiry and a crisis in foster care that led to not one, not two, but three inquiries, culminating in the CMC inquiry of 2004. Since then we saw the department change its name, but the system continued to lurch from crisis to crisis. In 2012 when the LNP came into office we inherited a system where only 34 per cent of investigations of abuse were actioned on time, including 17 per cent of 10-day cases. There was an explosion of kids in foster care, and we inherited a residential care program that had a \$50 million black hole in funding. When we left office in 2015, we had finalised the Carmody inquiry and accepted the recommendations in December 2013. We had committed \$406 million towards early intervention and family intervention services, and we boosted front-line child safety officers by 77 in 2014. Most importantly, we left Labor with a system that was achieving its best results ever.

In May 2014 the LNP introduced and passed the Child Protection Reform Amendment Bill. As at 30 June 2014, 40 per cent of all cases started on time, 91 per cent of 10-day cases started on time and five-day responses cracked 30 per cent for the first time ever, hitting 33 per cent. We also lifted 10-day responses to more than a quarter. Sadly, after 2½ years of Labor all of that positive momentum and reform has been squandered. Response times to 24 hours, five days and 10 days have all slipped. We have heard over and over again about the tragic loss of children known to the department who slipped through the cracks. For three budgets now we have heard from the minister that the Child Safety budget is a record investment.

The results show that money is not the issue. It is the minister and Labor. There is no leadership, no direction and no idea. We heard the minister announce some 292 new positions, many of which do not come online until 2018-19. Only one in five of those will be new front-line child safety officers. Despite being warned of the pending child safety crisis back in October 2015, the minister only budgeted for 21 new CSOs in the 2015-16 budget and then cut that to 17 in 2016-17. Since then she has been scrambling to paper over the crisis. This crisis happened under her watch and was of her own making. This minister ignored the warnings and failed to act in the best interests of children. Under this embattled minister we have seen a veil of secrecy descend over the department in a bid to shield her own incompetence. When we talk about Labor and child safety, it does not matter how much money they throw on the crisis fire; the department's performance and the interests of kids go up in smoke.

How many more children are we going to lose in Queensland under this dysfunctional child safety system presided over by an incompetent minister? Time and time again we see children being returned to dangerous and dysfunctional homes. The system's insistence on reunifying children with parents who should never be given another opportunity to re-harm their children is killing kids in Queensland. Parenting is a privilege, not a right. How can you return a child to a parent who deliberately and maliciously decided to burn that child with a cigarette? Abused children have experienced burns from cigarettes, rope burns from being tied up or burns from being immersed in hot water, with catastrophic results.

Ms Jones interjected.

Ms BATES: I would imagine that, as a mother, the member for Ashgrove might stop for a minute—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Crawford): Order! Minister for Education, you are pushing close to a warning.

Ms BATES: The member for Ashgrove, who is a parent, might sit here and listen to some of these stories. As I said, parenting is a privilege; it is not a right. Abused children have experienced burns from cigarettes, rope burns from being tied up and burns from being immersed in hot water, with catastrophic results. How can any adult make a conscious decision to bite a child so hard that deep teeth marks are left on an infant? How can a parent beat their child to death with a vacuum cleaner pole whilst they sobbed and asked the parent to pray for them? How can you return a child to a parent who has harmed multiple siblings even before the birth of another child?

If you have starved, beaten, burned and neglected your child because you are too busy getting your next hit or getting a refill because the bottle is empty, you do not get another go at being a parent. So many children have had horrendous injuries inflicted on them by those who are meant to protect and love them. If you sell your child for drugs knowing that they are being sexually abused, you do not get another chance. If you as a mother bring a man into your home to be 'daddy' and then let that man hurt your child, you do not deserve to have those children with you. As a nurse, it makes me sick to the stomach when court reports and media reports outline the horrendous injuries inflicted on those who have died or been hurt. I can see the X-rays of what those old spiral fractures look like. I can imagine the horror of the doctors and nurses when their suspicions are confirmed on a scan or an X-ray.

How many children have had multiple old fractures that were never treated or that left them unable to walk properly because the injury was never treated? As a nurse, I know the agony a child with a perforated bowel would feel—the vomiting of bile, excruciating abdominal pain, the anguish of not being able to voice what you were feeling because you were too young to say the words or, worse still, of knowing that no-one cared about you enough to help you, to be crying pitifully until your little body, racked with pain and shock, eventually succumbed. I know what burns look like—how the skin would be blackened and peeling off your little body with huge blisters filled with pus and the indescribable pain you would have felt.

Mr Whiting interjected.

Ms BATES: I know how the ambulance and police officers would have felt when they sat in the gutter and sobbed at some of these callouts. The member for Murrumba might contemplate that.

How can anyone make a professional decision to leave a child in a home like this or, worse still, send a child back to the abusers so they can abuse them all over again? Would you do that to your child, your niece or your nephew? We know that there is a massive problem with our foster care system. We know that 76 per cent of foster carers left the system because they were treated so badly. We also know that the process of ensuring the right foster carers are screened into the system has often failed, with catastrophic consequences.

Even a cursory look into the history of many of these families clearly shows a pattern of abuse, not only of the victim but also of those who have been abused either before or after them. We have heard of little children with multiple bruises or fractures in various stages of healing which were never treated and, even worse, bruising on a little baby, who cannot even crawl or walk yet, inflicted by those meant to care for them—or worse, hand prints or belt marks on the body of a beautiful, chubby little baby. We have names for some of these broken-hearted little mites who will never see adulthood. Worse still, there are others we cannot even honour with a name. We have many more complaints of children left in dangerous situations, but, under the so-called privacy provisions of the Child Protection Act, this minister and her senior executives hide and lie about what is really happening. The public, quite rightly, are horrified.

Why are we sending defenceless kids back to bad parents? Blaming ice is a cop-out. Alcohol is still far and away the biggest issue in domestic violence and child abuse. Stop sending kids back to dangerous parents and dangerous homes. What is the solution? Firstly, make sure they are not missed in the first place. Make sure we have people at the intake services who know what they are looking for, who can spot the most risky cases and get them seen urgently. Stop reunifying deadbeat parents and put permanency provisions in place for parents who want to love a child and not hurt them. Open up adoption for parents who want to love a child and stop giving second, third and fourth chances to people who are repeat offenders. Change the culture and start thinking of what is in the best interests of the child, not in the best interests of the abusive parent. Stop allowing deadbeat parents a say in what happens to the children they have hurt and punish those who have committed the most heinous crime there is in our society: deliberately hurting a defenceless child. Stop lying about the backlogs and stop putting kids back into families when you know that you are only crossing your fingers and toes when you return them and you hope to hell nothing else will go wrong. The system needs to change, and it will not change under Labor because the history of Child Safety is fail after fail when it comes to those on the other side of this House.

This budget does nothing to assist victims of domestic violence at the pointy end, on the front line. Domestic violence victims will continue to have nowhere to turn under this Labor budget. They will continue to be forced into motels, with little investment in crisis shelters. As a survivor of domestic and family violence I am absolutely appalled by Labor's reckless abandonment of domestic violence victims who need somewhere to go when they have made the courageous decision to leave. We know that leaving is not an easy decision to make, but it is made harder when Labor refuses to make real investments in crisis accommodation and instead decides to continue to put victims up in an unsafe motel, often with their children in tow, miles away from their home or their school. This is distressing for both the victim and their children as they have nowhere to go and often have little support provided to them. Too often they find that it is too difficult, and they may even decide to return to the abusive situation because no crisis shelter or accommodation support was available.

Labor's record is appalling and it needs to change. We saw a hollow promise of two shelters for all of South-East Queensland, with no detail of where or when they will be delivered. It will not change until we have a government in Queensland that understands victims need services wrapped around them when they leave. Sadly, in this budget we see Labor confirm once again that it has no interest in delivering the services we need to keep victims safe. Those opposite should hang their heads in shame for their appalling record on the prevention of domestic and family violence. It takes more than a selfie.

We know that just months ago it was the LNP that introduced tough new domestic violence laws into this parliament and passed them through the House from opposition. This is almost unprecedented. Our laws will give extra protections to victims and their families. In contrast, Labor's response is abysmal. Labor tried to rally against our bill in front of those brave mothers of victims who had lost their lives to domestic homicide. Those mothers were there in the gallery that night watching the debate in disbelief as Labor tried to cobble together a reason not to support our reforms.

Dale Shales was there. She is the mother of Teresa Bradford, who was brutally stabbed to death by her husband out on bail. Her body was discovered two months after her estranged husband and killer was reportedly locked up for bashing her, taping her mouth shut, dragging her across a room by her hair and attempting to tie her up with rope in an attack in her own home. Bonnie Mobbs was there, too. She is the mother of Shelsea Schilling, who lived in fear and was stalked relentlessly by her former partner and eventual killer. While out on bail, Shelsea's killer reportedly bashed her head against the tiles, left her unconscious with a broken nose and then pushed her head into a pillow, suffocating her.

Natalie Hinton could not be there as we debated our bill because she was looking after her grand-daughter. That grand-daughter, as I said that night, will grow up without her mother, Tara Brown, who was let down by the system and murdered by her bikie former boyfriend. She was known to

domestic violence services on the Gold Coast for 12 months and she was sent to numerous shelters and motels, but less than two years ago triple 0 operators took a call from a terrified Tara Brown as she screamed for help and was chased and rammed off the road after dropping her daughter off at a childcare centre. She was then beaten to death with a metal plate as witnesses watched helplessly and tried unsuccessfully to stop her murderer.

Sonia Anderson was there with us that night as we passed our legislation. Sonia is a rock of support for her family after her beloved daughter, Bianca Faith Girven, was strangled to death by her partner at a Brisbane lookout. She still lives with the outcome of this day after day.

These victims and many others like them were let down by Labor when they tried to oppose our legislation. Labor's appalling lack of support for our laws did not stop the embattled minister from shamefully trying to claim credit for our reforms in the *Townsville Bulletin*. She can try to rewrite history all she wants, but Queenslanders know that those opposite have failed to deliver for the victims of domestic violence time and time again. Those opposite have been in government for 2½ years with a clear road map laid out for them in the LNP's *Not now, not ever* report. Of the report's 140 recommendations, only 55 have been completed by this government. That is less than 40 per cent. Meanwhile we see reports of a 7½-month wait to get a hearing at the Southport domestic violence court. Labor is neglecting to meet a \$300,000-a-year funding shortfall for the Women's Legal Service Queensland, meaning victims fleeing domestic violence may have nowhere to turn for legal advice. Police locally, especially on the Gold Coast, are telling our members and anyone who will listen that domestic violence is the single biggest issue for them. Sadly, Labor continues to drag its feet. In contrast, the LNP stands shoulder to shoulder with victims of domestic and family violence.

When it comes to disability services, we see a worrying 10 per cent cut to state revenue. This should concern every man, woman and child with a disability in Queensland because as the NDIS rolls out we do not know how Labor will ensure those with a disability are supported. I know from travelling throughout this state just how inspiring Queenslanders with a disability are. They are wonderful people who just want to be able to live their lives with dignity and with certainty. Sadly, that certainty has been taken away from them by a Labor government that has given no assurance of support in the future. We know that the NDIS will not be fully rolled out for another two years, but Labor has refused to commit to providing vital support services for those languishing on the register of need in the meantime. We have seen a funding shortfall in disability services over the next three years. It is Queenslanders with a disability who will suffer as a result. We have a minister sitting on her hands waiting for the federal government to roll out the NDIS for her. It is clear to Queenslanders that this do-nothing minister has simply given up on trying to secure tangible outcomes for Queenslanders on the register of need.

We know that our seniors will miss out under this budget, with nothing being done to stop the scourge of elder abuse. The minister has sat on her hands whilst the number of seniors reporting abuse has continued to rise under her watch. There were 1,550 reported cases of elder abuse in Queensland in the last 12 months, a jump of 21 per cent. Elder abuse is a serious crime and as a community we must take a zero tolerance approach to stamp it out. Instead of doing something about it, the minister has her head in the sand. We need more than a few throwaway lines from the minister, and that is why in the 2013-14 budget handed down by the LNP in government we allocated \$7.2 million to seniors' participation and support programs.

Labor's budget once again shows it is completely out of touch with the needs of the Mudgeeraba electorate. We have been blatantly disregarded and it is our local area that will miss out again as a result. Labor can spin the facts any way it likes, but residents know that Labor is nowhere to be seen on local issues. All Labor has been able to muster up in almost three years is \$179,000 to seal a walking track in Springbrook National Park at Natural Bridge. In contrast, the LNP invested more than \$1 million for a new suspension bridge and walking track upgrades at Purlingbrook Falls in 2014. It was Labor that gave us the Reedy Creek quarry and it was the people power that stopped it. It was the LNP that shamed Labor into funding the next M1 upgrade from Robina to Reedy Creek after 2½ years of delay, but no funding had been set aside until after 2018 for the upgrade itself. It was the LNP that funded the \$8 million Carrara roundabout upgrade, but that did not stop Labor from desperately rehashing and reannouncing it yet again in this budget. Locals in my electorate and Queenslanders throughout the state know that this is a do-nothing Labor government and only the LNP will build a better Mudgeeraba and a better Queensland.

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (4.31 pm): I wish just shaming someone into doing something would get me a multimillion dollar project! It gives me great pleasure to stand here today to talk about the Palaszczuk government's third and greatest budget and the great opportunity that not only this budget but also the two previous budgets have delivered for the people of Gladstone. As I have said

many times in this House, Gladstone has been the economic driver of Queensland for decades and I am proud to stand here today to say that the electorate is starting to see the benefits of the hard yards flow back into Gladstone.

The electorate of Gladstone has for too long delivered to the state of Queensland and will no longer sit back and be neglected when it has been forgotten for so many years on funding and infrastructure. If you visit any school in the Gladstone electorate you can see works happening right now, including major infrastructure upgrades at Gladstone State High School, Rosella Park School, Clinton State School and the recently completed Calliope State School and also Tannum Sands State High School. These projects are not only providing a better place for our children and our students to learn; they are creating opportunities for the workers of Gladstone. The Palaszczuk government's state budget will continue to deliver on the things that matter most in Gladstone—investment in health and investment in education.

Toolooa State High School will see a major \$1.5 million upgrade in this budget to its school hall precinct commence thanks to the 2017-18 Palaszczuk budget. The school hall precinct was in need of major refurbishment, and this upgrade will deliver better facilities for the students and the staff to utilise. On a recent visit to Toolooa State High School I asked principal Garry Goltz what was the major infrastructure upgrade that he required at the school. His answer was loud and clear, and that was that the school needed a major upgrade to its hall so that students can utilise this facility in comfort and make it more user-friendly for parents and citizens alike. I am glad that my government and the Minister for Education listened. Halls are a vital part of our school community and I know that Toolooa State High School will be very excited about this investment which it has been crying out for for years.

This is on the back of the already announced \$1.2 million upgrade to the hall at Boyne Island State School. Gladstone schools have been neglected for far too long. We are seeing money in this budget for investment in new classrooms at Gladstone State High School worth \$6 million for a brand-new, state-of-the-art, two-storey school building, \$4 million for Rosella Park School's administration building—I have visited them many times and they are beside themselves in terms of how much this new building is going to do for that school—and \$5.5 million for the Clinton State School. Seeing these projects started now and being completed shortly is a very big welcome investment to my community. The unprecedented investment in education infrastructure shows the Palaszczuk government delivering for our schools in Gladstone. Not only that, we are also spending more money on maintenance of much loved schools in the Gladstone electorate which have been neglected for so long. It is great to see further involvement with the government to continue the great work we are doing with maintenance in schools.

It was great to have the Treasurer and Minister Byrne in Gladstone last Friday to make an announcement on our government's fishing strategy for the state. The budget has delivered an extra \$20 million investment and 20 more Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol groups and staff as part of the release of the Palaszczuk government's Sustainable Fisheries Strategy 2017-2027. The Gladstone QBFP office will reopen and four new fishing inspectors will be based right in my electorate of Gladstone. This is great news for our local community. I know that getting these local inspectors back out on the water is a key to resolving the issues that we are facing in Gladstone with better research on fish stocks, better public education and more compliance checks in the Gladstone area.

This investment paves the way for Queensland to have a world-class fisheries management system with serious structural reforms that support many thousands of regional jobs, particularly in the Gladstone area. The current fisheries management system is cumbersome, costly and inflexible and is not keeping up with community expectations. This is the biggest fisheries reform in Queensland's history. The feedback from the public last year on our green paper on fisheries management reform made it loud and clear that from my electorate there was overwhelming support for an increase in front-line compliance capability. We have listened and we have delivered. The people of Gladstone have been expressing to me how happy they are that finally we will have compliance officers back on the water, ensuring that everyone is doing the right thing and our fish stocks are maintained.

Other local key initiatives in the budget that was just delivered include \$49 million out of a \$226 million total spend to upgrade the RG Tanna Coal Terminal at the port of Gladstone, and this is much needed infrastructure. As we know, coal exports are continuing to rise, particularly through the port of Gladstone. There is \$5.6 million out of a \$33.4 million total spend to upgrade drainage and undertake preventative esplanade works on Fisherman's Landing. I talked to the CEO yesterday about this infrastructure spend. This is vital to ensure that into the future we can continue to use the Gladstone port as the export hub in Gladstone. Not only that, it will develop new industry that wants to come to Gladstone and develop their business on this land that we are building ready for the future.

There is also \$570,000 to install new offshore moorings within the Great Barrier Reef. For those who do not know, Gladstone is the home of the southern Great Barrier Reef. The government and Minister Miles are investing money into these moorings so that people do not just throw their anchors on the Great Barrier Reef. This is a great investment. This means that there are hubs that they can go to and tie off their boats and do their fishing without ruining the reef with their anchors. There is also \$55,000 for the Gladstone Turf Club to repair its barriers, stables and towers. Dave Weinert, the Chairman of the Gladstone Turf Club, was ecstatic with that funding because the work that it has been doing at that racetrack has all been done by voluntary contribution and volunteer members. He was telling me that it has not had any funding for the last 20 years. Even a token of \$55,000 will go a huge way to help the Gladstone Turf Club fix its barriers for the safety of horses and jockeys.

There is \$9.974 million as part of \$30 million over four years for fisheries management. As I said before, that puts four brand-new fishing inspectors in Gladstone. There is half a million dollars out of a \$11.7 million total spend to develop the next stage of the Clinton Industrial Estate to support the Gladstone State Development Area. I have spoken in this House many times about the benefits of the Gladstone State Development Area for large-scale industrial development. This investment of another half a million dollars to kick-start the Clinton Industrial Estate certainly gives us confidence that any small businesses that want to come to Gladstone can do so just as much as big industry wants to come to town. As I have said many times in this House, we are open for business and we are ready to go.

The 2017-18 state budget delivers a \$34.8 million funding boost to the Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service, taking its total budget to \$566.3 million. In addition to the increase in operational funding, Gladstone stands to gain from major infrastructure projects, including \$7.1 million to commence the \$42 million upgrade of the Gladstone Hospital emergency department and the \$4 million step-up step-down mental health facility that is starting in the next week or so. There is also additional funding of \$238 million for allied health services.

This budget delivers record health funding for Queensland. I know that the people of the Gladstone electorate are benefiting from this government's commitment to increasing our nursing, teaching, Child Safety and police numbers. These front-line workers are critical to the safety and security of my community. I am proud to be part of a government that values and invests in them, not sacks them along with 14,000 of their co-workers.

I now seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*. I can confirm that I have sought permission from the Deputy Speaker.

Leave granted.

Back To Work Program

The Government's successful Back to Work program, offering up to \$20,000 for employers taking-on eligible job seekers in regional Queensland, will continue, which has already seen 308 Central Queenslanders getting back into work.

Skilling Queenslanders for Work

Over \$2.5 million dollars has been delivered under this program by the Palaszczuk Government to the Gladstone electorate, supporting 459 people to develop the skills they need to find meaningful work. This program has helped jobseekers in Gladstone, develop skills, undertake paid work placements and earn nationally recognised qualifications. Organisations in my electorate are delivering incredible outcomes from the training they offer under Skilling Queenslanders for Work, with the majority of participants going on to further education or finding employment.

These organisations should be commended for their effort and for their commitment to generating employment opportunities in Gladstone, including Gladstone Engineering Alliance, Gladstone PCYC Association, Gladstone Community Linking Agency, Energy Skills Queensland, Welcoming Intercultural Neighbours, Gidarjill Development Corporation and Five Brigades.

Participants have undertaken everything from certificates in retail services and business, conservation and land management, warehousing operations, community services, scaffolding, early childhood education, hospitality and job readiness preparations. Programs like the Palaszczuk Government's Skilling Queenslanders for Work are vital to communities like mine and I am proud of our achievements in this area.

Works 4 Queensland

This Budget also delivers for the regional communities that I have been privileged to represent in my role as the Assistant Minister for Transport and Infrastructure.

And the program I am most passionate about is of course Works for Queensland which I'm incredibly proud to say has received another funding injection of \$200 million over the next two years. As I travel around the state in my role as Assistant Minister every council I visit tells me about the incredible impact this program has had on their community.

From playgrounds to roads to tourism infrastructure and from Bundy to Burketown this program is transforming our regional communities and delivering more than 700 projects.

Most importantly Works for Queensland is delivering jobs, jobs, jobs, almost 7,000 of them through the first \$200 million allocation.

But don't just take my word for it Cr Nev Ferrier Mayor of Banana Shire said that 'This is the best funding program I have seen in 13 years in Local Government.'

This was echoed by Mayor of Barcoo Shire Council Bruce Scott who said 'In all of my 23 years in local government and serving on public sector boards and committees, I have never seen a program with the potential to deliver community needs quickly and with little need for time consuming competitive processes holding up the implementation of projects.'

We see the impact it is having and we listened to councils who told us they wanted more and we are delivering with \$200 million more to be injected into the regions.

Soon we will be announcing how much more every council will receive and I encourage everyone

That's more jobs and more infrastructure for regional Queensland and that is what this Palaszczuk Labor Government is all about.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (4.40 pm): Talk about groundhog day! Just like last year and the year before that, this is a bad budget for Queensland. It has the same typical Labor characteristics: broken promises, more debt, weaker economic growth and no improvement in the unemployment rate. Despite delivering a budget two days ago, the Treasurer immediately went into hiding. Yesterday, he took part in an ABC interview but, after delivering this budget he has done no teleconferences, no live streaming, no live broadcasts and no media conferences. But the Deputy Premier has certainly been out there spruiking the government's budget. In fact, as a journalist pointed out, quite oddly the Deputy Premier stood with the Treasurer and the Premier at their budget media conference. That has not been done before. As I indicated on the day, the Deputy Premier could not trust the Premier getting Adani right, so I doubt that she could trust the Premier getting the Queensland budget right.

As I said, although the Treasurer has been in hiding, yesterday he took part in one interview. I suspect that is why he has not conducted any interviews since. Steve Austin from the ABC was talking about the ballooning Public Service numbers and the fact that, in three years, the government has created an additional 15,000 public servants and that the Auditor-General had warned of the growth of the Public Service. Last month, the Auditor-General, Anthony Close, warned that the state faced a financially unstable Public Service if the growth in numbers continued. The Treasurer's response to Steve Austin was to say, 'Well, he didn't warn me.' Steve Austin then replied, 'But you're the Treasurer.' Then the Treasurer replied, 'Well, he warned the government, but not me.' So we have a minister of the Crown, the Treasurer, handing down a budget two days ago, being warned by the state Auditor-General about the financial viability of the growth in Public Service numbers and being questioned about that by the ABC. His response was, 'Well, he didn't warn me personally.' It was just the government that was warned. Are we to believe that the Treasurer of the state did not read the warnings contained in the Auditor-General's report?

Mr Krause: Isn't he part of the government?

Mr BLEIJIE: I take that interjection from the member for Beaudesert. Is the Treasurer part of the government? Who knows with this government? I certainly know that the Treasurer is not part of Anastacia Palaszczuk's government. I suspect that he is more a team member of Jackie Trad's government. This Labor government has lost any shred of credibility—if it thought it had any. This is a budget to save the Premier's job. It is a budget to save the Deputy Premier's job, hence why she has been hell-bent on being at all the press conferences, and the Treasurer is nowhere to be seen.

The Premier must not be any good at multi-tasking. While she has been obsessed with Cross River Rail, millions of Queenslanders throughout this great state have been forgotten. Last year, the Premier said that her government was about jobs, jobs, jobs. We had a budget released two days ago that, in the words of the Premier and the Treasurer, was a jobs bonanza. We only have to look at the statistics to see how untrue that statement is. Youth unemployment remains a huge issue that the government continues to ignore. Over the past 12 months, Queensland has lost more youth jobs than has any other state in Australia.

In many parts of the state, a lost generation of kids is emerging. In outback Queensland, the youth unemployment rate is almost 50 per cent. In Cairns, Wide Bay and Townsville—major economic centres—youth unemployment is higher than 20 per cent. This problem extends to many parts of the state, including the south-east. The youth unemployment rate in Brisbane east is higher than 20 per cent. In just 12 months under Labor, the youth unemployment rate in Brisbane's west has practically doubled. In the last year, 4,100 youth jobs have disappeared from the Sunshine Coast, while almost 2,000 jobs have gone from Logan-Beaudesert. What employment program is the government offering the young people in these regions? Nothing. The government's Back to Work package is not helping in some of these areas that are struggling the most.

Queensland's youth unemployment problems are hardly surprising when we consider that, quite some time ago, the employment minister said, 'There's not much you can do to change youth unemployment.' When members look at the government's record they can see why there has been no reduction in the unemployment rate. As I said last year when speaking to that year's budget, when we have a minister who says that there is nothing to be done about youth unemployment, the results back what she says.

The unemployment rate in outback Queensland has doubled. The youth unemployment rate in the Gregory electorate is nearly 50 per cent. When the employment minister was discussing last year's budget and the Back to Work program that was introduced at that time, she said that that program was going to fix all the issues of youth unemployment in the regions. But we have seen a huge increase. At that time the employment minister said that the reason the Back to Work program was not being implemented in South-East Queensland was that the challenges facing outback Queensland were not faced in South-East Queensland. Now, we have a double challenge. In outback Queensland, the unemployment rate has doubled—up to 50 per cent—and the South-East Queensland region is now struggling with the unemployment rate.

The day before the member for Toowoomba South, Mr Janetzki, was elected to this place, I talked about the LNP's \$100 million jobs package and the fact that the Labor Party's package did not apply to that member's area. At that time—the day before the member for Toowoomba South was elected to this place and he was still a candidate—I said in the media that he was going to fight to have an employment package for the people of Toowoomba, because Toowoomba had struggles with unemployment. Now, 12 months later, lo and behold the government thinks that unemployment in that area is an issue. The LNP knew that unemployment in that area was an issue. That is how you solve the issue of unemployment: you recognise there is a problem, you come up with a solution and you implement it.

The members of this government have walked around Queensland wearing a blindfold. They have no idea. The employment minister says, 'There's not much you can do about youth unemployment.' If you look at the government's record in that regard, people would believe her, because she has not done much about youth unemployment. Something can be done about youth unemployment. Proper processes and policies can assist our young Queenslanders. It is not good enough that Queensland has the second highest unemployment rate in the country. As I said, we are going backwards. Queensland is battling South Australia, of all places, for last place, meaning that more and more Queenslanders are being left behind. Even Tasmania is doing better than Queensland. According to the findings of CommSec, the Queensland economy is in a worse shape than Tasmania's economy. We are at the bottom of the barrel. Only the LNP has a plan to focus on six key economic drivers to build a better Queensland and deliver the jobs needed to restart our economy.

The National Centre for Vocational Education Research December 2016 quarter figures, which were released last week, show a rapid decline in the number Queenslanders starting and completing apprenticeships under the Palaszczuk government. That new data from the National Centre for Vocational Education Research revealed that, in 2016, over 21,000 fewer young Queenslanders were in some form of vocational training, that 1,100 fewer young Queenslanders had started a training course and that 3,100 fewer young Queenslanders had finished.

Yesterday, the Minister for Skills and Training blamed it all on the LNP. Labor has been in government for nearly three years. This is its third budget—and, hopefully, its last budget. The research shows that 3,100 fewer young people had finished their training course and 1,100 fewer young people had started training. How can it be the LNP's fault from three years ago when, last year, 1,100 fewer young people started a traineeship or an apprenticeship? That is the fault of the Minister for Skills and Training and member for Redcliffe, Yvette D'Ath, and the Premier of Queensland, Annastacia Palaszczuk. When it comes to training and vocational education, Labor is all talk and no action. These issues have led to calls from both the Chamber of Commerce & Industry Queensland and Apprenticeships Queensland for an urgent overhaul to address Queensland's sinking apprenticeship rates.

In terms of jobs, the LNP has a four-point plan to help young Queenslanders working and create up to 20,000 jobs for young Queenslanders. It includes a \$5,000 apprenticeship incentive for small business. Even in their third budget, the minister for employment does not have an apprenticeship pledge or jobs package. It is just forking out these \$20,000 notes to businesses around Queensland. It is very reminiscent of the Kevin Rudd pink batt scheme and the \$900 which my sister enjoyed receiving in London. She received \$900 to spend in the Australian economy when she was in London for five years. All the minister for employment is doing is throwing out the cash without any foresight or comprehension of a good policy. We have to build the apprenticeships. We will do that by having a

\$5,000 apprenticeship incentive for small business. Those opposite have copied most of our policies. They could have copied that one. We gave an apprenticeship pledge in government. It is one of the only ones those opposite have not copied. They should copy that because it actually worked. We will deliver it in an LNP Tim Nicholls government.

We also have a \$4,000 job start incentive. We recognise that some people do not want to go to school, train or go to university; they just want a job. I reckon we should get them off the couch and the Xbox and get them a job, whether it be at the corner store or in admin for the lawyer, accountant or dentist practice. Get them off the couch, get them off the dole and get them a job. If that means a small business can employ that person, good on them. My parents come from a small business background. My parents ran a camping store. They could not afford to take on staff.

Government members interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: We are laughing at small business owners owning a camping store, are we? I know the Labor Party have no respect for small business.

Mr McEachan: That is the contempt they have for small business.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection. They have contempt for small business. I am darned proud of my parents, who raised me running a small business. They did not make any money. They raised three children. Every day after school my brother, sister and I went down to the camping store. My parents worked seven days a week because they could not afford staff. When they could afford it, they employed a young casual for Saturday morning to give my father and mother half a day off. This \$4,000 would have been a godsend for them. It might not seem like much to many people. Obviously with the disregard the Labor Party have for small business it would be nothing, but if it helps train a new casual person, gets them off the couch and gets them a first job then I say good on them.

I refer to WorkCover premiums. The LNP left the workers compensation premium the envy of every other state in Australia. Through our reforms, we had the cheapest average workers compensation premium in Australia. Those opposite always talk about the workers. The workers are the recipients of the workers compensation scheme. Who pays for it? Business pays for it. Small and large business pay for the workers compensation scheme. I am proud that when we left office we left the most healthy scheme in Australia, the biggest surplus in Australia and the lowest average premium in Australia.

The final part of our employment plan is a \$500 tradies bonus. When the honourable opposition leader raised this this morning I saw the minister for employment—as she is doing now—smiling and smirking about this \$500.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection. The member opposite says it is ridiculous. I am not sure if she understands the way traineeships work now. When they were reformed a few years ago, many of the tools for the trades were included in the awards.

Ms Grace: That's exactly right.

Mr BLEIJIE: That's exactly right. We think that if a hairdresser finishes an apprenticeship and we give them \$500 toolbox money so they can get their scissors sharpened or get new scissors or combs and brushes then that is a good thing. If the tradie who is an electrician needs to get a new electrical meter reader, good on them.

Mr Mander: How can you argue with that?

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the member for Everton. How can you argue with apprentices getting a \$500 incentive to assist them to get working?

The Labor Party said that TAFE needed rescuing. TAFE does need rescuing now. We have empty TAFE buildings. The member for Gympie raised it yesterday. We have an empty TAFE building in Gympie. The University of the Sunshine Coast wants to use it and the Minister for Skills and Training says that is a private corporation. A university is willing to take over that space to offer services and study. We found out in this budget that TAFE numbers are going down. Despite the Public Service growing, and the Minister for Skills and Training parroting on every day about skills and training being in the DNA of the Labor Party, we will have fewer workers in TAFE next year than this year. How is that investing in the life and opportunities of TAFE? We have a \$1 million review into the assets of TAFE. We do not know where it is at. We do not know when it will be released or TAFE will have students in it.

This budget is groundhog day for my great electorate of Kawana. As I am talking about people being forgotten, it seems the Premier has again forgotten that the Sunshine Coast is in the state of Queensland. The Premier should remember. Recently she was on the Sunshine Coast cutting the

ribbon on Sunshine Coast University Hospital, the same hospital the Labor government refused to build for years. It took an LNP government to fund and deliver the hospital. The Sunshine Coast saw right through the Premier's facade. Every resident on the Sunshine Coast knows the history. They know Labor only delivered a paddock for kangaroos to graze on. The Premier may have cut the ribbon, but she knows that the Sunshine Coast community knows that, if it were not for the LNP, the only ribbons on the hospital site would have been the protestors' ribbons—one for every bed this Labor government refused to deliver, time and time again.

As I said, it feels like groundhog day because, once again, the coast has been snubbed by the Labor government. The headline in Tuesday's *Sunshine Coast Daily*, 'This government must really hate the Sunshine Coast', summed up the feeling of every Sunshine Coast resident who is paying for Labor's paralysis, funding cuts and increased cost of living, taxes and charges. Nothing has changed. Labor would not deliver this hospital for our region and now it has cut \$400 million from infrastructure spending on the Sunshine Coast.

The Treasurer mentioned the Sunshine Coast just once in his hour-long speech and was silent on critical major infrastructure projects like the north coast rail duplication, the Mooloolah River interchange and Bruce Highway funding to match the federal government's \$536 million commitment. Not one dollar was allocated for these congestion-busting infrastructure projects. The Labor Party does not seem to understand that Cross River Rail will do nothing to solve congestion on the Sunshine Coast. They have tunnel vision, their blinkers are on, and all they care about is protecting their inner-city mates at the next election. This was not a budget for Queensland, it was a budget for Jackie Trad. Even the Labor government's own report states that there is no do-nothing option, which is ironic given that this is a do-nothing government with respect to the north coast rail duplication if rail is to have a future in this corridor. In January this year, Building Queensland listed the project as investment ready. It topped the list of projects on the Sunshine Coast. This government is big on rhetoric but an abysmal failure on delivery. What can we expect from a Deputy Premier who is only interested in one rail project and that is Cross River Rail?

When the LNP was in government it invested \$1.8 billion to build the Sunshine Coast University Hospital. We committed to funding the \$440 million Mooloolah River interchange to better connect Caloundra, Kawana, Mooloolaba and Maroochydore and support delivery of the hospital. This road infrastructure is critical to reduce congestion on other major road corridors such as Nicklin Way and the Sunshine Motorway. It is needed to support the growth on the Sunshine Coast and provide access to the University Hospital. Instead of building this \$440 million critical piece of infrastructure, what does the Labor Party decide is a good solution—\$22 million for roundabout upgrades on Kawana Way. We went from a critical \$440 million project to roundabout upgrades. That is the legacy of the Labor government—a do-nothing, see-nothing, know-nothing government. To make it worse, it has a few million left over because, as predicted, upgrading a few roundabouts was never going to cost \$22 million. Now, as an afterthought, it wants to open up Production Avenue, a commercial and industrial estate, as a main thoroughfare to Kawana Way to try to deal with congestion on Nicklin Way. It is remarkable that this Main Roads minister thinks diverting traffic through an industrial estate is a safe and practical option. To rub salt in the wounds, he will be putting a nail in the coffin of over 20 small businesses along Nicklin Way who rely on on-street car parking to enable customers to stop and spend money in their stores. Rather than consultation, they just went ahead and designed this ludicrous plan to remove all on-street car parking, add yet another set of traffic lights on Nicklin Way and direct hospital bound traffic through an industrial estate.

I met with 20 business owners yesterday who were devastated to hear of this government's plan to put them out of business. This government talks a lot about jobs, but we all know its record. Now it wants to send over 20 small businesses broke. Guess what that means. Lost jobs! This government is trying to spend \$4 million of leftover money on Nicklin Way in a misguided attempt to reduce congestion instead of investing \$440 million on the MRI that will provide a permanent solution to the problem.

This is the short-sighted disposition that we have come to expect from this government. Under Labor the Sunshine Coast will never realise the north coast rail duplication or the Mooloolah River interchange. Labor has been in government for the best part of 17 out of the last 20 years and what have they delivered for the Sunshine Coast? Absolutely nothing.

All my constituents have received is an increase in their cost of living and higher car registration—3.5 per cent per year under Labor's watch. It is clear that only the LNP understands that families cannot afford Labor's taxes and charges, which is why we will again apply a freeze to car registration. Under this government we have seen power prices soar and water increases spike. If it costs people money, we can bet it has increased under this Labor government.

I stand by the LNP's commitment today to again freeze car registration—a real commitment to reduce cost-of-living pressures for Kawana residents. Queenslanders are crying out for leadership. Sadly, they are not getting it from the Labor government and Labor Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk. Only the LNP has the plans to build a better Kawana and a better Queensland and get Queenslanders working.

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (5.00 pm): I have been looking forward to adding something positive to this debate. It is with a sense of pride and excitement that I rise today to speak on and support the 2017-18 state budget handed down by Treasurer Curtis Pitt this week and outline how it will positively affect my electorate of Thuringowa. You will not be able to take the smile off my dial.

As a fellow regional MP, our Treasurer certainly gets it. He is acutely aware of the challenges his closest neighbour, the city of Townsville, has endured in the last two years following what was possibly the worst start for any new government in 2015—that is, dealing with major issues affecting our proud yet resilient city. The main ingredients for those major issues were these. The first was the LNP Newman-Nicholls term of government. They sacked 14,000 people. The member for Kawana talked about the increasing cost of living. There was a 43 per cent increase in power prices. What did that do? It drove down business and consumer confidence and increased unemployment.

Another ingredient was the mining and resources downturn. We are now seeing some positive change following this Labor government's investment in the north-west minerals province and the Surat and Galilee basins, and Adani's recent announcement in Townsville. This has provided a real shot of confidence for this vitally important sector. We endured the QNI industrial disaster in 2016. I say the 'disaster' because it was not just the 800 direct employees who lost their jobs who were affected, but thousands of others in our city—those involved with logistics, maintenance and supply.

There were also successive failed wet seasons, causing drought conditions. I know that you will appreciate this, Mr Deputy Speaker Millar. They affect the very heart and soul of North Queenslanders. Without water many industries struggle. The mining, agricultural, tourism, construction and landscaping industries have been severely affected. All of these things combined have contributed to high unemployment rates. We have seen crime issues challenging our communities.

I am proud to say that the Palaszczuk Labor government has had the guts, the drive and the sheer determination to respond to every challenge thrown at us. I therefore acknowledge our Premier, Deputy Premier, Treasurer and all government ministers for their passion, determination and sheer will to make positive change through a range of programs and funding like those aimed at restoring front-line nursing, teaching and emergency service jobs.

Other such programs and funding include: the accelerated capital works program; Skilling Queenslanders for Work, with 4,300 jobs across Queensland; the Back to Work youth boost payments, creating 642 jobs locally; the \$21 million Works for Queensland program ensuring councils get projects out the door and create more local jobs—over 6,000 in Queensland; North Queensland's first regional plan, paving the way forward for our region; the \$250 million North Queensland Stadium creating 750 jobs, something I am passionate about; the \$35 million Riverway Drive duplication—promised by those opposite but not delivered; we got it done under our watch, and it will create over 100 jobs—\$8.5 million in public housing projects creating over 300 jobs for tradies; and the \$6 million for the Kirwan State High School hall, which has gone to tender and is going to create more jobs.

I am pretty rapt with the \$5 million commitment for a new ambulance station for Kirwan. After 27 years in that profession I am pretty proud to have delivered that under my watch. It was promised by the former LNP government, but they failed to deliver it. There is funding for 20 more police officers for our two Queensland Police Rapid Action and Patrol Group hubs, one of which is located in Thuringowa.

I have saved the best for last. There is a \$692 million infrastructure budget for water security and renewable electricity transmission for Townsville. Of that, \$225 million has been allocated for water infrastructure to respond to our proud city's water security. This is a massive shot of confidence. It will restore business and investment confidence for North Queensland's major regional city. It fits in perfectly with this Labor government's \$386 million focus on North Queensland with our Powering North Queensland Plan. Out of that, \$236 million has been allocated to the Burdekin Falls Dam for a hydro-electric power station and improvement works and a study to assess options for hydro-electric power.

Some \$225 million has been set aside to ensure the state is prepared to act on the findings of the intergovernmental water task force and support sustainable and secure long-term water supply and security for Townsville. Another important funding commitment is the \$150 million set aside to connect

the 11 renewable projects in the north, like the hydro-electric power scheme, through strategic transmission infrastructure. This totals a massive \$689 million commitment in infrastructure projects for Townsville. Importantly, these works are estimated to support thousands of jobs.

Along with the significant funding of \$935 million in North Queensland health, there is \$43 million for our schools, approximately \$90 million for northern regional roads and a separate \$50 million Back to Work regional employment package. All of these Palaszczuk Labor government initiatives are jobs building. We will see some 3,300 jobs created for Townsville. That is excellent given what we have been through.

Put simply, this is certainly great news for my electorate of Thuringowa. I again thank our Premier and Treasurer and all ministers for steering us through the tough times and investing in North Queensland with this battlers and builders state budget. It is truly a Labor budget that we can all be proud of because it means we are putting people first.

I cannot go on without responding to what the member for Clayfield said this morning. All the initiatives I have outlined are in stark contrast to what the opposition leader announced today. It was a shocker. There was not one cent for water security in Townsville. There was nothing about pipelines and nothing about the Burdekin Dam.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr HARPER: I will take the interjection about dams. Those opposite talk about building a new dam—

An opposition member interjected.

Mr HARPER: I will take the interjection. They talk about building a new dam. Can I suggest the entire frontbench of the opposition hop in a car and go for a drive up the highway and actually visit Townsville, but do not stop because no-one will talk to them. Turn left onto the Flinders Highway and turn left again at Mingela and get out. There is a big dam out there called Burdekin Falls Dam. That is our water security. Nearly two million megalitres of water is sitting there. We have the money on the table and we know that we will deliver this through our plan. We will connect that to Townsville. That is our plan.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr HARPER: You have absolutely no idea. You live in the south-east. It is going to create jobs. Where is the detail around dams? Where is their coal-fired power station going to go? How much is that going to cost—\$2 billion? Will it take 10 years to build like their dam? Where is the detail? They have nothing. Give us some detail.

I have to respond to commentary of the opposition leader around One Nation. He said there will be no deals with One Nation. Really? But they were willing to do preference deals on a seat-by-seat basis. What is it going to be? Is it deal or no deal? They have nothing.

This afternoon the member for Everton talked about the police in Townsville. There were no solutions. It was all talk and no action. We talked about the 20 extra police we are getting for the rapid action patrol hub. How do I know that? I know that because I have been there and I have spoken with them. I even did a night shift with them. They told me they needed extra staff and we delivered. What did those opposite do? They did nothing. They did not staff it properly from the start. They are all talk and no action. Talk is cheap. We are delivering.

I say to anyone on the crossbench or anyone who wants to oppose this budget: go to Townsville and tell 200,000 people that they do not deserve \$689 million worth of infrastructure that is going to connect electricity and give them water security for the rest of their days. Go and tell them that.

Mr Hart interjected.

Mr HARPER: You laugh now. You sit here in your cosy little South-East Queensland corner seat. You have absolutely no idea. I would like to end on a more positive note.

Mr Watts: 'I resign!'

Mr HARPER: No. I will be here for a while, champion. You only have to take a trip along Thuringowa Drive to see the impact of the Queensland government's commitments and what we have been delivering which has also sparked private investment. Let us take a trip. Strap in, everyone. We are going for a ride and I will provide the commentary. It might be a school hall on the left, an ambulance station on the right, public housing on the left, a new road on the right—Riverway Drive, and we will end up at the dam. I have so much to talk about, but I do not have time. I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Millar): Has the member had the remainder of his speech checked by the Deputy Speaker, sent an electronic version to Hansard and presented a hard copy for tabling?

Mr HARPER: It has all been done, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Leave granted.

From major road intersection (roundabout) upgrades you will be at the base of Dalrymple Road heading onto Thuringowa Drive, look Right to see the \$40M Dalrymple Road upgrade providing all weather access on what was once impassable in wet seasons (oh, how we miss them!).

Following this road upgrade we have seen significant development with Parkside residential development of Greater Ascot and I certainly acknowledge local developer Peter Tapiolas' faith to see these types of developments through in what have been tough times in Townsville—because it became a catalyst for further development and investment in Thuringowa. Directly across the road from that development is a new Catholic Education Primary School. St Benedict's is underway right now (more local jobs) with our Government committing \$6M to help get this underway.

Just up the road is the Townsville RSPCA who do an amazing job in our city, caring for abandoned and sadly sometimes mistreated animals. They were recent recipients of \$30,000 from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund to get them a new Van to continue a mobile service. More importantly they have received \$1.5M in funding over the next 4 years to ensure they continue to provide this worthwhile service.

Of course the Dalrymple Road upgrade links onto the \$200M Stage 4 of the Townsville Ring Road, recently completed of which our State Government contributed a further \$40M.

But let's head back along Thuringowa Drive. We see the extension of Greenwood Park Sporting Complex and new lights, thanks to the Get Playing Fund and the Community Gambling Benefit Fund.

What is that up ahead, you may ask? On the Right side you will see the old Thuringowa Council Chambers where a new private hospital is being planned for construction = investment and jobs!

On the Left you will see the Kirwan State High School which is the State's third largest School which recently received \$6M in funding for a well-deserved multipurpose Hall, which is out to Tender! Awesome, Mr Speaker. More Jobs!

Oh, look Left everyone. It is the nearly 40 Year Old Queensland Ambulance Station at Kirwan, which recently in this budget received \$5M to be redeveloped to ensure we provide the facilities for our frontline staff. Thank you to our Health and Ambulance Services Minister—an outstanding result that the LNP only spoke about but failed to deliver. I am so proud of this outcome for a profession I have been a part of for 27 years.

Eyes on the road everyone! Up ahead on the Left is the almost completed 12 unit \$3.5M Public Housing units we will shortly name the Ken McElligott House (a former Member for Thuringowa) which created 120 jobs and will focus on disability access. Thank you, Minister de Brenni!

On the Right side we see more private sector investment with Dexus Willows Shoppingtown redevelopment going into Stage 2, demonstrating a real \$70M show of confidence in Thuringowa.

Let's stop at a major intersection before starting the trip along the now famous Riverway Drive. Look Right everyone. It is Hervey's Range Road. It received \$7.2M in Road upgrades and the private investment of Harris Crossing and Mount Margaret residential developments are another real show of investment and confidence.

Mr Speaker, down Hervey Range Road that is the Brothers Leagues Club which like the JRL complex received \$100,000 in funding for lighting and facilities upgrades, via our Queensland Government Get Playing Fund, and they have employed 7 new staff thanks to the Back to Work Youth Boost, just like that place over there! Pitstop Karting, with 2 new employees. G'day, Dale Dunston and crew!

On the Right Hand side is our magnificent Riverway Precinct, home of many Community & Cultural events like India Fest, Greek Fest, African Fest, NAIDOC Day celebrations and the Pacifica event, just to name a few. Only a few weeks ago we hosted the 5th Annual Weetbix challenge where nearly 800 Kids participated.

Mr Speaker, Thanks to "Works for Queensland fund" going directly to Councils across Queensland, I know those kids will have less risk of sunburn during the swim leg of the Triathlon thanks to \$1M going to shade sails which will cover the pools at Riverway.

As we head out of the Riverway Precinct, we look across the road at the Queensland Police Rapid Action Patrol Hub, which has seen major policing operations: Oscar Merchant and Papa Advance which has resulted a reduction in crime rates that have affected our community for some years now.

As released in this year's budget, there are 20 more police for the QPS RAP Hub. Thank you, Police Minister Mark Ryan. QPS received more Police which is a real boost to the troops we have located in Townsville and continue to reduce crime rates that have directly affected our community.

QPS RAP Hub is also home to the Townsville Stronger Communities Group which is our Whole of Government Team, working with affected individuals and families with intensive case management. We know this has also significantly reduced the rates of property and motor vehicle offences and is well supported by our Government.

Now let's turn Left onto Riverway Drive, and looking to the Right side we see yet another crane helping build another \$5.5M x 16 Unit Public Housing complex, which has delivered over 200 jobs during the life of the project to local tradespeople. Thank you, Minister de Brenni.

This activity has sparked more private investment, Mr Speaker, because just up the road is another new Lancini Property and Development of a new Zarraffa's coffee store and takeaway which is being built again by local trades!

As we head up the road, we look onto the Riverbank which spans nearly 10km, and we see 40 workers who, thanks to Skilling Queenslanders for Work funding of \$718,000, are undertaking beautification works, with Townsville City Council and Gtec training company. They are not only learning new Skills, Mr Speaker; they are also lifting civic pride of the area, and who knows, Mr Speaker, this work ready unit could one day be working on the \$250M North Queensland Stadium providing over 750 jobs for locals.

Now back along the road and we see major roadworks signs up ahead on Riverway Drive. The Premier has recently attended these \$35M roadworks and was quoted as saying, "There is not a Member of the Queensland Parliament that has not heard of Riverway Drive!"

How true is that statement, Mr Speaker? Yes, the Premier joined me very recently to help turn the first sod on what is Thuringowa's largest infrastructure spend in years. Some 24,000 people live in the area and over 20,000 cars use this major arterial road which is in \$35M Stage 1 of duplication of Riverway Drive between a 3 km section of Gollogly and Allambie lanes.

It was the number 1 priority for locals and I am proud to have delivered it, Mr Speaker. Even Thuringowa should be proud to know that I will continue to put people first and fight for more funding for the Stage 2 Duplication.

Mr Speaker, this is so much more than a road upgrade. I formed a local Community consultation group over a year ago—"Hello Upper Ross Community Voice champions"—and they have provided feedback direct to TMR which resulted in helping achieve an increased scope of works and an increase funding of \$5M, taking the project from \$30M to \$35M as it now has increased pedestrian access, boardwalks, lighting, car parking for user groups, all adding to the overall increase of civic pride of the area.

At one of those meetings we had briefings from 2 developers who are investing in the area. Wingate & Payce Developers' brand-new Riverstone residential development will see another 1200 homes in their \$500M residential development in the Upper Ross.

This of course means more travelling families along our major road, Riverway Drive, and they will now be able to shop in a new multimillion Riverway Shopping Plaza as a result of the Manolis Family owned Development. At one of those community meetings Mr Charlie Manolis gave his commitment to upgrade their facilities, which is yet another show of confidence and investment in the area.

Mr Ben Griffin, representing the Griffin Group who have 3 other major developments in Townsville, is leading the Project and the first Development Application has been submitted to Council. I see more jobs, Mr Speaker, on this existing project and I know through my very positive interactions with the owner and Ben Griffin that this project is also going ahead, largely because of the Riverway Drive road Duplication which will significantly change access to and from the current shopping facility. As the local Member, I certainly welcome this investment in the Upper Ross area.

We are back in the car, Mr Speaker, and have nearly arrived at the Ross River Dam.

Mr Speaker, Water Security is a priority for Townsville, so I am so pleased to see water infrastructure funding of \$225M being included in this State Budget.

Beside the Dam, we have the \$225M Ross Solar Farm, a 235MW facility being started and will provide enough renewable energy to power 55,000 homes and during its construction will employ over 230 jobs. Mr Speaker, I must acknowledge and thank ESCO Palisade for their investment in Thuringowa.

This massive renewable facility will plug directly into the Ross Substation in Kelso, which our Government is investing \$3.5M to upgrade this facility. It is great timing as this will assist in connecting the Ross Solar Farm.

This is all great timing as it is all going to be connected to the Premier's recent announcement of Powering North Queensland where a massive \$386M will be spent in connecting our North Queensland's 11 renewable projects, therefore increasing local supply and decreasing transmission of power up the Queensland coast from the South East. And importantly, Mr Speaker, this investment is estimated to create thousands of jobs.

Mr Speaker, this is a major investment in North Queensland!

I liken it to North Queensland's Micro Grid, ensuring electricity generated in North Queensland remains in North Queensland!

Beside the Ross farm is the Thuringowa RSL and Bartlett Park Rodeo grounds. Both of these local well-known community organisations have received over \$60,000 in funding between them from our Community Gambling Benefit Fund. The reaction from the RSL for their new Solar project has saved them over 3000 per month in electricity costs and their neighbours at Bartlett Park can now have a new bore and lighting.

Mr Speaker, it is time to go home now, turn the car around and head back to the family in Kelso. I am immensely proud of the work done to date in what is relatively still a new Labor government, who are putting people first and we know are looking after Townsville.

Thank you, Mr Speaker. I commend the Treasurer's Budget. It is simply outstanding and a real investment for the people of Thuringowa.

I support the Bill.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (5.11 pm): I was going to say what a sham of a budget this is, but what a sham of a contribution that was! That contribution is indicative of a government that does not know how to prepare real budgets for the entire state of Queensland. The budget is a sham. It is a con job. It is a 'jobs bonanza' budget with no jobs—in fact, 80,000 fewer jobs. It is a budget which continues car registration hikes and higher power prices, with fees going up and cost of living going up. It is a budget with cuts to infrastructure and cuts to roads. It is a budget with no vision other than one vision, and that is sandbagging the Deputy Premier against the Green tide in South Brisbane.

I would like to start with some positive news. As announced by the Leader of the Opposition, Tim Nicholls, this morning, an elected LNP government will freeze family car vehicle registration. After two years of being gouged by this Palaszczuk Labor government and with promises of two more 3.5 per cent increases to come, the announcement by the Leader of the Opposition this morning will help ease the cost-of-living pressures on Queensland families. While it is about time that the Premier and Labor adopted our car registration fairness pledge, which we announced in 2015 to cap family car registration increases to the inflation rate, it is quite simply too little, too late. Queensland families have been subjected to an increase of more than \$50 for each family car registered since the Palaszczuk Labor government came to office. It is an outrageous cash grab by an incompetent government.

Labor, now in an election year, want Queensland families to believe them when they say they will cap registration increases to CPI—in two years time, that is. It is like the bank robber telling the bank he will stop stealing from them—just not yet. The Nicholls LNP team has listened to Queenslanders. We have planned and we will act to relieve the cost of living. An LNP government will freeze family car registration for three years. It is a policy that will save a Queensland family with two six-cylinder cars over \$200 across the life of the policy. While Queenslanders will be sceptical about the Palaszczuk government's promises when it comes to registration, they know we can deliver a family car registration freeze because we have done it before.

Turning to Queensland Rail, like the Palaszczuk government's constant registration slugs, South-East Queensland commuters have also had a slap in the face from Labor, with over \$200 million of taxpayers' money going towards extra rail services in this budget which will never come. The reality is that, while Labor wants to pour more money into a broken Queensland Rail, 1,800 services per week have been slashed from the timetable. We also now see the true impact of the rail fail—1.3 million fewer trips have been taken on trains this year than were expected.

The budget has also confirmed that over the last year only 89 per cent of Citytrain services have turned up on time and only 94.9 per cent of services actually ran at all. Five per cent of trains did not even turn up. They were not late; they did not turn up at all—never. What a disgrace. I saw the minister out there trying to spin the cancellation numbers. She was saying, 'There are now fewer services being cancelled. Things are better.' Of course fewer services are being cancelled because there are fewer services actually being delivered—470 services cut from the timetable each week. When you deliver fewer services, of course you have fewer cancellations.

If this con job of a budget with massive infrastructure cuts was not enough of a stress test for the state's worst transport minister, she was also finally shamed into releasing the Queensland Rail timetable stress test. It is 'take out the trash' week because, under the cover of the stench that is this budget, the Deputy Premier was scrambling to get out their bad news. What the stress test report means for commuters is more cuts on top of the 1,800 we have already been experiencing, more delays and more cancellations. That is all this Palaszczuk Labor government has to offer passengers. With less than a month's notice, we will be seeing three more days of a cut back timetable during the June-July school holidays—25 June, 2 July and 9 July. Yet again the people in my part of the world on the Sunshine Coast will be left with two-hourly services to the Sunshine Coast. It is simply not good enough in this day and age.

The report also admits that the public transport plan for the Commonwealth Games is not yet finished. Correct me if I am wrong, but we are less than 12 months out from the Commonwealth Games and this incompetent government is making it up as it goes along. We have been asking for the Commonwealth Games transport operations plan for over 12 months, and now we find out that it is still being written.

The stress test report also outlines a few contingency actions for when the timetable does become stressed, such as during school holidays and the coming Commonwealth Games. One of the contingency measures for the stress periods is to 'proactively implement short-term timetable changes, ensuring highly patronised services and special events are protected'. To decipher Labor's *Yes Minister* world, this is code for cutting services on other lines to ensure there are enough services to deliver things like sporting events and Commonwealth Games. Tell anyone on one of those lines who has had services cut that that is a good result.

Another action is 'implementing efficiency improvements'. Labor's previous patch-up job solution for the timetable that did not work was to run more express services, which means skipping stations and leaving commuters stranded on the platform. The Premier now needs to rule out creating express services, leaving commuters on platforms, as a so-called 'efficiency improvement'.

The stress test report also identifies the rollout of the new generation rolling stock as a stress on the timetable. What that means is that, after stuffing around with the carriages at the union's behest, the member for South Brisbane still does not have enough drivers for the new trains. Queenslanders know that it is the LNP that can get Queensland Rail back on track, get the trains running on time and services restored. Why? It is because that is exactly what we did during our term of government. For commuters, Labor's budget means cuts, cancellations and delays.

I move to Cross River Rail. This Labor government only does things by half measures. Despite the Deputy Premier's trumpeting, this budget delivers only half of the capital costs of the Cross River Rail project, and that is before all of the extra costs are factored in. All in all, Labor's secret business case says that the project is a \$14½ billion project. If this government is so convinced this project stacks up, then the Deputy Premier should today table the full business case so Queenslanders can judge for themselves—not a sanitised public business case version which she has ordered from Building Queensland but the whole business case. One thing is for certain: this is not a shovel-ready project like Anastacia Palaszczuk declared in 2013.

I turn to road funding. This year's road budget reads like a list of LNP achievements. There is the \$1.6 billion Toowoomba Second Range Crossing—tick; that was the LNP. Thank you, member for Toowoomba North and member for Toowoomba South. There was the \$1.1 billion Gateway Upgrade north. That is another tick for the LNP. There are projects up and down the Bruce Highway which were part of our \$8½ billion Bruce Highway Action Plan—tick, tick, tick—including the Sunshine Coast Motorway to Caloundra Road upgrade. The Warrego Highway upgrades were part of our \$600 million 'Warrego is Go' plan—again, tick. Well done to the member for Condamine and the member for Warrego.

Overall in this budget we have seen a cut in the roads budget and a cut in all but two of the Transport and Main Roads districts. We have heard a bit of conjecture from the Premier and the member for Yeerongpilly denying that they have been slashing roads and transport infrastructure, so let me step it out for them. In the north coast district, from the Sunshine Coast to Moreton Bay—my patch—in last year's budget, in the Capital Statement, Budget Paper No. 3, starting at page 119, the government spend on the north coast region was \$299 million. In this budget, in the Capital Statement, Budget Paper No. 3, starting at page 123, they are spending \$236 million. My 10-year-old son would be able to tell the Premier and the minister—

Mr Minnikin: What the rate of GST is.

Mr POWELL: I take that interjection from the member for Chatsworth. Yes, he could tell the Premier what the rate of GST is. He could also tell you that that is a difference of \$63 million. That is \$63 million less being spent on the north coast. That is a \$63 million cut, and these cuts have been replicated around the state. As I said this morning, \$134 million has been cut from Toowoomba and the Darling Downs; \$34 million has been ripped from Far North Queensland and \$17 million from Northern Queensland; \$26 million slashed from the Fitzroy region; \$16 million in Mackay-Whitsunday; \$16 million in the north-west and \$7 million in the south-west; and Labor has gutted the Wide Bay-Burnett region by nearly \$85 million.

While the Metro region lost \$33 million in funding, regional Queensland has been hit the hardest. Across the state a total of \$400 million has been slashed and burnt from the roads and transport infrastructure budget for 2017-18. This includes the modest budget increase of \$645,000 in central west—the member for Gregory must be doing something right out there—and \$30 million extra for the south coast, but that is largely attributable to the Commonwealth Games roadworks.

In a media release earlier today the minister claims that we should be looking across the four-year program of works, not just 2017-18. I did that. I got the Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program. Even a cursory glance at this document shows that across the four years when it relates to the state network or the local network there is a complete paucity of project funding across those networks from 2019-20 onwards. In other words, there is next to nothing in the pipeline when it comes to road funding and construction. I suggest that the minister might be better off looking at his QTRIP rather than banging out media releases that again mislead and try to con the people of Queensland.

What Labor does not understand is how far this roads funding goes in regional Queensland. In the regions, infrastructure means roads and infrastructure means jobs. The sum of \$400 million could drastically improve safety on some of the longest, loneliest stretches of roads. It could fund the upgrades which would open up more business opportunities and increase productivity for our agriculture and resources sectors. It could improve and strengthen so many old and neglected bridges around the state.

Road congestion is worsening, with the government missing the mark for the expected percentage of the road network having reliable travel times. Only 72 per cent of the 33,000 kilometres of state roads met this threshold. We have a plan and we have a track record to deliver the roads, bridges and infrastructure Queenslanders need.

I turn to local government. This budget has also been a kick in the guts for local councils across the state. Local councils have seen their grants funding slashed since the last budget. With this Premier, it is give with one hand and take with the other. While she talks up the works program that she has provided to local councils, Indigenous councils will be hit hard with \$2.1 million ripped out of the Indigenous state infrastructure program. I do not think Labor understands just how important that funding is for those Indigenous communities.

From 2016-17 to 2017-18 the Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program has been slashed by over \$17 million. Just months after an Auditor-General report was released raising serious concerns about the financial sustainability of councils, this government wants to make things harder for them and their ratepayers. What Anastacia Palaszczuk and Labor do not understand is that in small regional and rural communities council funding means jobs.

Labor have also quietly axed the Building our Regions fund in this budget. It was a program that failed to deliver 99 per cent of the regional infrastructure it promised in 2015-16. What an embarrassing backdown! While the implementation of the program was flawed, the intent was similar to the LNP's Royalties for the Regions, a program to partner with local government to deliver vital infrastructure. That is why we will restore a dedicated \$500 million Royalties for the Regions program to invest in infrastructure in regional Queensland. Our upgraded \$500 million Royalties for the Regions fund will partner with local government to focus on projects that foster job creation in rural and regional Queensland, lead to more investment in the regions, and help rural and regional communities become economically sustainable. We have also made a regional road guarantee to councils. There will be no changes to the TIDS funding under the LNP. We will deliver to local councils in this state.

I would now like to turn to how this budget affects my constituents and my local communities in the electorate of Glass House. That can be summed up in four words: zip, zero, nothing, nada. Those of us in the Sunshine Coast and Moreton Bay hinterland have long felt neglected by state Labor governments. It is one of the reasons I decided to seek election in the first place, but not ever in any of the previous five Labor budgets has the neglect been so complete. There is no north coast rail. There is no Mooloolah River interchange to free up access to our new Sunshine Coast hospital. There is no funding for the Maleny Kenilworth Road. There is nothing for the intersection of Kilcoy Beerwah Road and Old Gympie Road at Beerwah. There is no money to replace the bridge at King John Creek on Beerburum Road. There is no capital funding for any Glass House schools. There are no flashing school zone lights at Peachester or Glass House Mountains State School.

If further proof is needed, let us look at the regional action plan for the Sunshine Coast and Moreton Bay region. Let us look at the map with coloured numbers all over it. The Glass House is here. There is nothing but grey. The people of Glass House have quickly established that it is only LNP governments that deliver locally. LNP governments deliver overtaking lanes on the D'Aguilar Highway, lights at Reed Street and Bowen Road intersections on Steve Irwin Way at Glass House Mountains. The LNP addressed the maintenance backlog at our local schools. The LNP delivered Great Results Guarantee funding directly to our schools so that principals, in partnership with their teachers and local communities, can decide how best to use it to educate our kids. The LNP delivered flashing school lights at nearly all of the schools in the electorate of Glass House. The LNP delivered funding to our priceless and amazing community and sporting groups. The people of Glass House will not be conned by this budget. They see right through it. They know Labor will not deliver for them.

I will finish like I started in my budget reply. This is a con job budget. It is a budget that is bad for jobs, a budget that is bad for roads and infrastructure, a budget that is bad for Queensland commuters and a budget that is bad for Queenslanders. The Leader of the Opposition outlined our real plan to build a better Queensland. That is the plan Queenslanders know will create jobs, provide safe and livable communities, build the roads, bridges and dams we need, support strong families and deliver better government.

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (5.30 pm): It will get you home faster, it will create jobs, it will be better for the environment and it will reduce congestion. Of course I am referring to the No. 1 priority infrastructure project for the Palaszczuk government, the Cross River Rail. Constituents in my electorate have been speaking about this project a lot over the last few years, ever since it was cancelled by the Newman government. They understand what it means for our community, for

South-East Queensland and for our entire state. My constituents understand that for one part of Queensland to prosper we must all prosper. The Premier, the Treasurer, the Deputy Premier and in fact all members on this side of the House understand the significance of this project. That is why I am absolutely ecstatic that the Treasurer has announced that we will totally fund this massive investment in public transport. Our population continues to grow and we must invest in infrastructure to meet those growing demands. Public transport is an essential service and is being favoured as the primary means of transport by an increasing number of people in my electorate.

When I spoke about the project recently with Simon, a young business owner and constituent in my area, he told me that he supports the project because it is good for the environment, but he asked if we were really serious about this project. Next time I see him I will be telling him that we are serious enough to totally fund the project. It remains disappointing that those opposite and their colleagues in Canberra are not serious about investing in Cross River Rail and public transport in South-East Queensland. It is becoming apparent and clear that only a Labor government will deliver this crucial investment in public transport.

Jobs are one of the key benefits of investment in projects like the Cross River Rail. Like all members of the Palaszczuk Labor government, my No. 1 priority is job creation. I have seen the benefits of programs like Skilling Queenslanders for Work in my electorate for organisations like Vision Australia. They have a program that assists people with low or no vision who have been unemployed for a long period of time to enter the workforce. I applauded the Back to Work program for regional Queensland, but I have always said to the minister, the Treasurer and the Premier that I want it in South-East Queensland. I am pleased that the Treasurer is part of a government that listens and has announced the rollout of this program in South-East Queensland—benefiting people right across my electorate.

I recently met a young man who has gained qualifications with both TAFE and university. He has done the right thing. He has done volunteer work, he has gained work experience, but he has still struggled to find work. The Back to Work program will give employers real incentives to give a motivated young person a chance to get a start in life. That is what Labor does—we help people to get a start and they keep going and they give back more than they have ever received. That is certainly what happened for me. I am proud to be part of a government that is making employment and meaningful jobs a reality for young people in my community.

Social housing comprises roughly seven per cent of the households in my electorate. The 10-year Housing Strategy will be welcomed by everyone in my electorate, and Minister de Brenni is to be congratulated on his fine work in developing this strategy. We need to ensure that there is a mix of housing available in our area. It is what makes our community so vibrant; it is what makes our community so diverse. This project will allow for the renewal of housing stock, as well as an increase in housing stock. Of course, more than just providing housing, this strategy will drive local job creation, benefiting everyone—building housing, building employment and building community.

The people of my electorate understand that education is key to success in life for individuals and is key to success for our society. It is fundamental to building community. I have personally been the beneficiary of the transformative power of education. Parents in my electorate tell me about how impressed they are with the advancing education action plan. This plan has seen the establishment of the Reading Centre and Autism Hub in Woolloongabba. I had the great pleasure of taking P&C and P&F volunteers for a tour through that facility last year. We were so impressed with the support that these services can provide for students not just in our community but right throughout the entire state.

Minister Jones spoke about this plan and the investment our government is making in supporting students, teachers, parents and schools at a forum I organised at the Holland Park State School for members of P&Cs and P&Fs. The action plan has seen teachers, guidance officers and teacher aides put back to work, with approximately 25 teachers, seven guidance officers and 200 hours per week of teacher aide time added over the last two years in my electorate.

Supportive parents and staff are absolutely essential to good educational outcomes. Parents will be excited to learn about the advancing education infrastructure plan. We need good infrastructure as well to deliver excellent education. This builds on the work done over the last few years at schools like Mount Gravatt high, Nursery Road State Special School, Coorparoo Secondary College and Holland Park State School. The announcements in this budget will see a new hall at Cavendish Road State High School and a refurbishment of block A at Greenslopes State School. Of course, these projects will also lead to more local jobs. I am proud to be part of a government that is focused on ensuring a great education for every student in our community. Investment in education builds community.

In addition to our government's investment in public transport, job creation and education, I could also speak about these issues: the re-establishment of the drug courts; the record investment in adolescent mental health services, something I am very passionate about; the massive boost in resources for child safety; the soon-to-be rebuilt Sciencentre; and the investment in our local sporting infrastructure. All of these things are in the budget and I am extremely proud of them. However, the people in my area are rightly concerned about jobs, public transport and education so I have chosen to focus on these key issues. The investments in these three key areas will ensure that, as my community grows, we will build the infrastructure necessary to build a great community—a community that is a great place to live and raise a family, a community that contributes to and is part of a prosperous Queensland. This is a great budget for public transport. This is a great budget for education. This is a great budget for jobs. This is a great budget for Greenslopes.

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (5.37 pm): What a dud this budget is. It is a dud. The Premier told us that there would be a jobs bonanza in this budget, yet unemployment is to remain at six per cent, with 80,000 fewer jobs. What a dud. Debt is increasing by \$8.2 billion and will be over \$81 billion in 2020-21. For the first time in history, it will be over \$80 billion. That is \$15,795 for every man, woman and child in Queensland. I repeat: it is \$15,795 for every man, woman and child in Queensland in 2020. Employee expenses are \$5.7 billion higher than in last year's budget.

Mrs Smith: Say that again.

Mr HART: They are \$5.7 billion higher than last year's budget. The government failed to deliver \$1.7 billion of infrastructure they promised in last year's budget, and they have been using the government owned generators to gouge customers, businesses and industry to fill up the hollow log and use this budget to pork-barrel Labor seats at risk. The budget is a dud, and I will have more to say about electricity shortly.

While this budget is a dud for Queensland, there is not much in it for my seat of Burleigh either. We have \$4.4 million for Caningeraba State School to commence construction of new classrooms, which the principal, Ray McConnell, is urgently in need of so he is very happy to have that funding. There is \$1.3 million for capital works at the Tallebudgera recreation centre. I do not know what they are doing there, but there is \$1.3 million for capital works at the Tallebudgera recreation centre. There is \$18.6 million for the start of the motorway widening from Mudgeeraba to Varsity Lakes. Madam Deputy Speaker Barton, you live on the Gold Coast and you know what it is like down the southern end of the coast. We need these roads fixed urgently, but this is only \$18 million of the \$180 million that is needed to fix this road. In fact, all that will do is move the problem further south. The Labor government does not care what happens at the southern end of the Gold Coast. They do not have any members down there and they never will.

Mrs Stuckey: They used to.

Mr HART: I take that interjection from the member for Currumbin. They did used to have members down there, but they were so poor at taking care of the Gold Coast that they lost them. There is no money for stage 3 of the Gold Coast Light Rail. Stage 3 will bring the light rail to my electorate of Burleigh, which is something that we really need. We have to give consideration to that funding and we need to get on with it.

I move to the portfolio of energy, biofuels and water supply. Labor's budget shows, yet again, that it is utterly unfit to run energy, biofuels and water supply on behalf of Queensland. It is hard to believe that they dare to put their incompetence for office on such naked display in this place and to the people of the state. The government has a long list of failings in energy. Labor's policies have driven prices higher for Queensland households and business. The measures they have announced through the budget provide some short-term gain, but a great deal of long-term pain for the people of this state. Labor has been gouging huge sums of money out of Queenslanders. This budget shows that they intend to keep gouging, while trying unsuccessfully to hide their behaviour. They are doing all of this, rather than addressing the fundamental causes of rising power prices.

Further, Labor intends to keep pumping public money into unnecessary projects to support private investors. If those projects made sense, the private investors would not be hanging around the office door of the member for Yeerongpilly, looking for handouts. They would be getting on with their projects independently. Old habits die hard and Labor is back to the worst of its old habits. Twenty years ago the electricity market was established so that governments would stop interfering in investment and operational decisions. The purpose was to deliver to Queensland low cost, secure and reliable energy supplies through private investment, removing the risk to the state's financial position.

However, Labor does not understand business and the markets. This government is intervening clumsily in the electricity market and everything it is doing will deter sound private investment in Queensland into the future.

Before I run through the main examples of Labor's economic recklessness in electricity, I will quote from my budget speech in 2015, because it was quite predictive. I spoke about the government moving debt from the general government sector to the energy GOCs. I said—

If the state government is going to save \$600 million in interest payments by shifting this debt from the government sector to the public non-financial corporations sector, somebody is going to have to pay that interest. If our energy companies are going to have to pay that interest, where are they going to get that money? The government has already said that it will not be cutting back on staff levels and it will not be cutting back on front-line services, and I seriously doubt whether the ETU will let it do too much in that regard. So how are they going to make the money to pay that \$600 million, Treasurer?

How is that going to happen? The only way that I can see that happening is through the price of electricity going up.

That is exactly what has happened. I cannot repeat everything I said in 2015 because I will run out of time.

Chapter 8 of Budget Paper No. 2 covers public non-financial corporations, including the state electricity and water businesses. In this part of the budget papers, the government has announced that it is allocating \$771 million to remove the cost of its solar bonus scheme from electricity prices for the three years from 2017-18 to 2019-20. What happens to the customers after the three years are over? Will we see a massive spike in power prices? I suspect that that will be the case. Queensland householders and businesses can look forward to a huge jump in their power bills when that happens. Labor has no plan to keep long-term downward pressure on prices. Labor is about short-term measures in an effort to bribe Queenslanders, especially around election time. The LNP is about acting so that Queensland enjoys long-term least-cost electricity supplies.

On page 152 of Budget Paper No. 2, table 8.3 shows that the revenue of the government owned generators has more than doubled over the past two years. In 2017-18, the generators' earnings before interest and tax are budgeted to be almost three times greater than they were in 2015-16. That is an outrageous outcome in an electricity market with what is for the moment an oversupply of generating capacity most times of the year.

On page 141 of Budget Paper No. 2, Labor claims it has undertaken a number of reforms 'to place downward pressure on wholesale prices in the future, including directing Stanwell to alter its bidding behaviour'. There are a few interesting things about that statement. Labor is claiming that that is a reform. Firstly, it appears that the government does not even expect that to work. Generator profits are projected to grow from \$382 million, as it was in 2015-16, to \$892 million this year. It has doubled this year. It is expected to be \$1,070 million in 2017-18, \$858 million in 2018-19 and \$750 million in 2019-20. Those are not my figures; those are in the budget papers. It is right here and members can see for themselves at page 152 of Budget Paper No. 2.

Secondly, and this may explain why there is no reduction in income for generators shown in the budget, while the Premier's Powering Queensland Plan says it will direct 'Stanwell Corporation to undertake strategies to place downward pressure on wholesale prices', the plan makes no mention of CS Energy. We are telling one of our power companies that they have been gouging, they have been naughty and they had better stop ripping off Queensland consumers, but we are completely ignoring the other generator that we own, which does not have to do that. For the information of members, CS Energy and Stanwell control 65 per cent of the generating capacity in Queensland. When they bid into the market with high spot prices, everybody else follows them and everybody who generates power makes money. That is having a real effect on businesses, especially those businesses in the spot market or those businesses that are signing two-year power agreements starting now.

Labor claims that directing the commercial behaviour of a generator operating in the national electricity market is a reform. Perhaps the member for Yeerongpilly intends to set up a trading desk in his office and offer energy to the market on Stanwell's behalf. This direction is exactly what the national electricity market was designed to avoid. Despite whatever short-term effect the government's direction to Stanwell might have, its longer lasting and more significant effect will be to deter potential investors from entering the Queensland market. They know for certain that Labor will not and indeed cannot put in place a market environment that supports effective competition and efficient prices. Instead, they know Labor will intervene arbitrarily in the competition itself to try to force an outcome that it desires. This is political risk to investment at its most blatant. This is a risk that means investors are likely to need higher returns to invest in Queensland in the future, which means higher power prices in the future for Queensland households and businesses.

This morning it was good to listen to the Leader of the Opposition talk about car registration freezes for the next three years. I am sure that the people of Queensland will really appreciate that, but the real effect on the cost of living will come from electricity bills. The announcement by the Leader of the Opposition that we would give priority project status to a new economically viable, low-emission, ultra-supercritical coal-fired power station in North Queensland will be very welcome by those people.

To give you a bit of an idea, Madam Deputy Speaker, Queensland's capacity from traditional sources of generation—coal, gas, solar, wind and hydro—is about 13,500 megawatts. A couple of days ago when I had a look we were only generating 6,400 megawatts, consumption was about 6,000 megawatts and we were selling the other 400 megawatts to New South Wales at \$80 a megawatt. Over Christmas we were in fact selling 1,000 megawatts to New South Wales at \$14,000 a megawatt, and that is the problem. When we sell it interstate at those sorts of figures we are also charging businesses here those sorts of figures, and that has caused businesses like the Boyne Island smelter to shed staff because they cannot afford to run economically at the rates this government wants to charge.

I want to take the Minister for Energy to task for his absolutely pathetic contribution. The minister said a lot of things during his contribution that quite simply are not factual and not true. One of the things he said is that the coal-fired power station that the Leader of the Opposition talked about earlier in the day is not a low-emission power station. I have news for the Minister for Energy: the word 'HELE' that is in these power stations should have led him to the belief that it is a low-emission power station because the word 'HELE' means 'high efficiency, low emissions'. Maybe other members here could explain to the Minister for Energy that that is what 'HELE' means in the context of coal-fired power stations.

The 50 per cent renewable energy target the Labor government is blindly following because of their ideology is causing increases in electricity prices in Queensland. There is absolutely no doubt about that. They are trying to achieve a 50 per cent renewable target because they believe this is affecting climate change. The member for Yeerongpilly seems to be very keen to quote Dr Finkel, the Chief Scientist of Australia, during estimates this year in Canberra, but what he did not mention was the discussion that Dr Finkel had with Senator Ian Macdonald in Canberra during estimates. Senator Macdonald asked him about the contribution of Australia's emissions to global climate change and he referred to a figure of 1.3 per cent. Senator Macdonald asked the Chief Scientist to tell him what effect that would have on climate change and he replied, 'Virtually nothing.' Therefore, even reducing our carbon emissions by 1.3 per cent will have absolutely no effect on the world's climate. Even if we got rid of all of our emissions that would have absolutely no effect, so having a 50 per cent target achieves absolutely nothing.

I want to correct the minister, because the so-called rises under the Newman government that he talked about of 15 per cent a year were not in fact locked in. The minister is conveniently forgetting that in 2010 the Australian Energy Regulator handed down its decision regarding the amount of money that Energex and Ergon could reclaim for their network costs. That was for a five-year period, and Labor were in government in 2010. The decisions they made up to that stage caused the AER to lock in an increase of 15 per cent in network costs which immediately flowed through the QCA decision and came out the other side as higher electricity prices, so they were completely beyond the control of the government at the time.

An opposition member: Right! Do they understand that?

Mr HART: They do not understand any of that. When we were in government we took action to fix that. When the AER handed down their next decision in 2015, just after the Labor Party got into power, they said that electricity prices should stay pretty stable for the next five years. That has not happened because this government has lost control of generating, and I will give you an example. From 2000 to about 2011-12 the typical price of a megawatt of power was about \$35 to \$40, and that was because it was coming out of a coal-fired power station all that time. In 2011-12 it jumped up to about \$65 a megawatt, and that happened because of the carbon tax. It never went down. What has happened in the last 12 months? That price has now jumped up to average \$95 a megawatt, and in fact over Christmas in January and February of this year it was averaging \$200 a megawatt. That is why the wholesale price of electricity has jumped up by 70 per cent on average.

This government has been gouging consumers and businesses to put all that money aside in their budget and then throw it back in the form of a three-year subsidy. What happens at the end of that three years? That \$770 million is gone, we burned through it and there is no more money to do anything else. When that happens we will see another huge spike in electricity bills. Those opposite will be gone by then and it will be a problem for us to fix, which is exactly what we had to do between 2012 and

2015. We had to fix all of their mistakes in the energy market. This budget is a dud for the people of Queensland. The people of Queensland can see that, and this government will be tossed out at the next election.

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef) (5.57 pm): This year's budget is a win for Queenslanders and it is also a win for the Queensland environment. Queensland has the best national parks in the world. We have everything: world-famous beaches, ancient tropical rainforests, red sandy deserts and the largest coral reef in the world. We have five natural World Heritage areas, but right now when people go looking for an ecotourism experience a lot of them end up going to Tasmania—Tasmania, of all places—and Tasmania only has one natural World Heritage area.

The Palaszczuk government thinks that Queensland should be the ecotourism capital of the country, and that is why we have committed \$40 million over two years to revitalise our national parks. Right now international travellers clock up 7.9 million visits to our national parks each and every year, while locals are hitting the parks 51 million times a year. We should not keep these beautiful walking trails and camping spots a secret, because every person who experiences one of our world-class parks will become an ambassador for Queensland and for our environment, not to mention that the total spend by visitors who include a trip to a national park in their holiday itinerary adds \$4.43 billion to the state's economy. That is real jobs which are supported by our national parks, and that is good news for the tourism industry. The head of Queensland's peak tourism body, Daniel Gschwind, has already welcomed this investment, saying it would generate income and jobs for regions and ensure we continue to build our position as a world-class tourism destination.

While those opposite wanted to trash our national parks, opening them up for all sorts of inappropriate commercial development, we are proving that you can invest in your parks to create tourism jobs while protecting them. In fact, what those opposite never understood is that, when it comes to ecotourism, you can only create ecotourism jobs by protecting them. With our record funding commitment we will build infrastructure that will get more people into our national parks while preserving their outstanding natural values, starting with start-up infrastructure like roads and fences at newly protected areas all the way through to new communal kitchens in our camping grounds, multiday walks, bike tracks and gateway centres, as well as new accommodation options like standing tents. We will invest in our online presence so that when people visit sites like TripAdvisor they can get accurate and useful information about our parks, attractions and camp facilities. We will free up some of our rangers' time so they can spend more time with park visitors and more time designing exciting activities in our parks.

We will continue to work with traditional owners to extend these ecotourism opportunities to Indigenous communities in rural and remote areas, particularly throughout the cape. Queensland's traditional owners have been caring for country for more than 40,000 years. We will fund 25 more Indigenous land and sea rangers. This really is one of my favourite programs in government—giving young traditional owners the chance to work on country, delivering environmental benefits and creating new tourism experiences. Closer to home, we are working with the Quandamooka people to upgrade facilities on North Stradbroke Island, providing jobs for locals on the island and making one of our most loved holiday spots even better.

Straddie is not the only iconic destination getting an upgrade. We are putting \$2.8 million into upgrading the Daisy Hill Koala Bushland. I thank the member for Springwood for the effort he has put into ensuring that the plan for that site will make it a genuinely exciting urban bushland area and a great conservation park to boot. Some \$5.7 million will be used to redevelop the Mon Repos Turtle Centre at Bundaberg. Bundy is also about to become a must-see regional dive destination, when we scuttle the ex-HMAS *Tobruk* late in 2018. We are investing almost a million dollars in special moorings that protect the Great Barrier Reef while making it easier for boaties to visit more special spots along it. While we will continue to acquire new protected areas, we will also maintain the places that are already special in the hearts of locals and visitors. We want people to visit these places, create memories and become champions for their protection.

The 2017-18 budget reaffirms the Palaszczuk government's commitment to protecting the environment, with a \$38.9 million boost to the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection's operating budget. It has taken three budgets, but we are finally putting behind us the destruction wrought by the member for Glass House on environmental programs in the Newman-Nicholls LNP government. The Treasurer has delivered a record budget for environmental protection. This is funding that will go towards the things Queenslanders want.

As I said, the previous government took an axe to environmental compliance programs, while we are rebuilding them. Queenslanders want to know that the environment department has the resources it needs to protect our environment from harm. That is why the Palaszczuk government has provided a \$9.3 million boost to get more officers on the ground, making sure big operators are not polluting our air, ground or water. Queenslanders want to know that when big mining projects come to a close the land will be left in good condition so that we can go on to use that land for other things like agriculture. That is why we are reforming the financial assurance and mine rehabilitation rules for new and existing mines—to make sure mines are rehabilitated without taxpayers being left to foot the bill. This is good for the environment and great for regional Queensland, where there is close to \$8 billion worth of rehabilitation work to do and where local towns are well placed to provide the best people and skills to do it.

Queenslanders also want action on climate change. We received an overwhelming response to our discussion paper on the transition to a low-carbon future. The message was loud and clear: action on climate change is needed now to create new jobs and sustainable communities in Queensland. We heard from tourism operators on the Great Barrier Reef who had witnessed the worst coral-bleaching event ever; from communities who have traditionally relied on the resources sector, keen to ensure the long-term viability of their jobs; from businesses looking for the markets of the future; and from Indigenous communities who see the opportunity for homegrown carbon-exporting industries. The Palaszczuk government will ensure our communities and workforce are ready to capitalise on the global transition. We are putting \$15 million over three years into implementing the right measures to attract the new investment and industries of the clean growth economy. Together with our 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2030, we will create our fair share of these jobs of the future here in Queensland.

The Queensland government is refreshing its partnership with the Chamber of Commerce & Industry Queensland to support our small and medium sized enterprises to reduce their operating costs and become more sustainable. We are committing \$916,000 to deliver a free ecoBiz program to businesses to help them reduce their energy, water and waste costs. Not only will this partnership deliver financial savings to Queensland businesses; it will also help us to address climate change. CCIQ CEO Stephen Tait said that thousands of small and medium sized businesses benefited from the previous ecoBiz program and he said that our new partnership 'shows the commitment of the Queensland government to help alleviate pressure on businesses across the state'.

We know that Queenslanders voted for a government they knew would protect and preserve the Great Barrier Reef. We will continue to implement the Reef 2050 Plan and the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan, working with local communities to roll out practical on-ground projects that make a real difference to the health and resilience of our reef. Just recently the World Heritage Centre released a draft decision commending Queensland's efforts in implementing the Reef 2050 Plan. That is a long way from where we were when the Newman-Nicholls government was dismantling reef and tree-clearing protections and planning to dump dredge spoil on the reef. In fact, the World Heritage Centre made it clear that we will not meet our water quality targets without the reef protection regulations and land-clearing reforms those opposite continue to oppose. I invite the member for Clayfield to get on board and support our sensible laws and put the reef's World Heritage status beyond doubt.

Unlike those opposite, we are doing everything we can to protect our precious reef. Unlike those opposite, we have put our money where our mouth is. This budget locks in our record investment in reef water quality. It will see us spend \$246 million over the next five years, making the water flowing to the reef clearer and cleaner. We have responded to the Queensland Audit Office's criticism of previous governments by making the \$35 million water quality investment real and transparent. For the first time, every single cent of water quality funds will go towards actions that directly deliver on our commitments under the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan. If the government had not taken this action, the budget for reef water quality would have been reduced by \$85.725 million over the next five years. This will ensure we can continue to deliver important programs like agricultural industry best management practice, Paddock to Reef, on-ground natural resource management and Science in the Paddock.

Queenslanders are sick of being the litter capital of the country. In a major win for reducing waste in this state we are investing \$1.5 million for waste diversion and recycling programs. Right now in our state, supermarkets are handing out a billion plastic bags a year. Many of those end up polluting our waterways and oceans and killing our fish and turtles. We have included an additional \$2.5 million to bring in the ban and introduce a container refund scheme which will make it easier for people to recycle and give community groups a chance to make some extra money.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Miss Barton): Order! Minister, can you confirm that this is not related to the bill you introduced earlier this week?

Dr MILES: Madam Deputy Speaker, this relates to an initiative in the budget to fund the programs in that bill.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: So you are anticipating the debate in the bill that is before the House?

Dr MILES: No, Madam Deputy Speaker. The budget includes funding to implement these schemes. I have just completed speaking to them, so I will move on if you will allow.

We are standing by our commitment to address toxic firefighting foam in Queensland. In addition to the ban and phase-out for PFAS foams across the state, we have included \$1.4 million over three years to manage firefighting foam pollution. We are pinpointing firefighting foam stocks across Queensland so that we can tackle the PFAS and PFOS issue. This is another Palaszczuk government budget that delivers what Queenslanders want. We have made big pledges to create long-lasting results for the generations of people who live in and visit our great state. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mrs SMITH** (Mount Ommaney—LNP) (6.10 pm): It was interesting to note that the member for Mount Coot-tha did not make one contribution about Mount Coot-tha. I thought that was very interesting—Mount Coot-tha no more! I could be forgiven for standing up in the chamber and delivering the same speech that I delivered last year, because nothing has changed under this do-nothing Labor government. In fact, nothing ever changes with this Labor government. Actually, that is not correct because there is sometimes a change of ministers, isn't there? We have had a few change of ministers.

Opposition members interjected.

Mrs SMITH: That is exactly right: the debt has gone up. I can also tell members what else has not changed. This time last year the member for Pumicestone had to get up and give a personal explanation, as he has had to do this week as well. The member for South Brisbane has been angling for the premiership—another thing that never changes! Of course we had the Treasurer, who is the weakest link in this whole government, and that does not change either!

Mr Powell: That's saying something, isn't it? It really is!

Mrs SMITH: I remember that last year in my speech—which I was going to read again because, as I said, nothing ever changes—I said, 'The tribe has spoken. The Treasurer's the weakest link.' It was a good little speech. All you have to do really is insert '2017' for '2016' and then of course increase the debt. The only difference is that Queensland is going backwards and it is Queenslanders who are going to be paying for it.

This state budget comes as a complete disappointment to the residents of Mount Ommaney. The Mount Ommaney electorate is being treated like the poor cousin. It is a very disappointing budget for our area, but that is hardly surprising. It is par for the course, which is what we have come to expect under Labor. Once again for the third year running the elephant is still in the room—Sumners Road is left without funding and, worse still, commuters are still stuck in traffic for hours every week. Tomorrow morning and every morning for the next year at least commuters will again need to park in the backstreets of Darra as the upgrade of the Darra train park-and-ride station is completely disregarded. The shadow minister has been there to see what the situation is, yet year after year it does not get addressed. Our sporting groups are also set to carry on furiously fundraising due to the heavy burden to self-fund their desired projects and upgrades.

That of course leaves no-one in any doubt about what this budget means for Mount Ommaney. It means that Mount Ommaney has been left off the map—no funding at all to the upgrade of the Sumners Road overpass and no funding to fix the Centenary Highway. The RACQ has said that that is the worst congestion and that it is a car park morning and night, yet there is not a word about the Centenary Highway. There is no funding to upgrade the Darra park-and-ride and of course no new funding for our local sports clubs. As I said, it is just like we have to be grateful for the scraps.

The Mount Ommaney Fire Station will receive a \$50,000 upgrade towards its facilities. On that note, I want to praise our fireys. There was a terrible fire today at Mount Ommaney in Westlake on Horizon Drive. Two houses burnt to the ground. Our fireys did an amazing job, and I am pleased to report to the House that no person was injured. In that area there have been a couple of very severe fires in the last couple of years—one took a young boy's life—so I want to place on record my thanks for the hard work that our fireys and emergency service crews do in Mount Ommaney. That \$50,000 will go towards that facility. However, in the budget Labor is being tricky by saying that it is an \$800,000 announcement but only \$50,000 is being funded. At the end of the day, that really amounts to a little bit of landscaping.

The Mount Ommaney Special School will receive funding for more classrooms. That is something that we have fought hard and long for, and rightly so. It deserves those new classrooms given that there has been an increase in students and a much greater diverse range of complex disabilities. Mount Ommaney Special School was opened in 1992 and was designed specifically for children in wheelchairs and there were 30 students. The enrolments for 2018 will see over 80 students with a range of disabilities that are so much more complex. There are children with artificial legs, arms, wheelchairs and walkers—a whole range of children and a whole range of complex disabilities—and so that they can learn the school does need to expand to accommodate them. As I said, while I welcome that type of funding, it falls short of what is required. I will take up the challenge to the government to get the funding on our important community priorities correct.

Another big impact that this budget will have on the residents of Mount Ommaney is of course the cost of living, and the cost of living was a key theme from our chat with mums yesterday. The Leader of the Opposition, Tim Nicholls, and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Deb Frecklington, visited the Mount Ommaney electorate yesterday and met with a group of mums at Jindalee Jungle, an indoor playgroup area. It is a fantastic facility and I thank John very much for having us there yesterday.

One of the key issues that came up whilst talking to these young mums was the fact that household budgets are having a huge strain placed on them with rego going up year after year under a Palaszczuk government. We are also seeing higher electricity prices under a Palaszczuk government. The mothers of Sebastian and Ted, who are two and three years of age, know that they will have to pay for a debt that is now going to crash through \$80 billion and their children—a two- and a three-year-old—will suffer because of that outrageous debt. An LNP government is committed to ensuring that the future opportunities for our children are at least the very same as the opportunities that we had—not being burdened, riddled and saddled with debt.

This year we have heard the Premier, the Treasurer and ministers spruik that this is a 'jobs bonanza' budget. In 2016 we had the 'Advance Queensland economy, job-creating, innovation, investment, infrastructure' budget and in 2015 who could forget the 'jobs now, jobs for the future' budget? The sad reality is that, despite all the spin and rhetoric from the government, this has done very little to help unemployment rates in the Mount Ommaney area. All those opposite have talked about since 2015 is jobs, jobs, jobs, but the reality is that the evidence shows that youth unemployment in the western suburbs has jumped from 7.5 per cent to 15.7 per cent. That is the highest it has been in 17 years, and that is a whopping 8.2 per cent increase.

I table an article from my local paper, the *Satellite*, which states that it has been 17 years since we saw the anything like the unemployment rate for Brisbane west.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Satellite (Northern Edition)*, Brisbane, dated 10 May 2017, titled 'Unemployment Skyrockets' [998].

That is an absolutely shocking statistic. I believe that the only way we will be able to get the jobs that we need in Brisbane west is to ensure that there is a good plan, a real plan, to create jobs. We all know that Labor has failed miserably. It talks about it but, clearly, the results are there. As my colleagues have said, this budget—this jobs bonanza—is nothing more than a con job.

I now turn to the portfolio of Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy. Last year, we all recall that the centrepiece of Labor's budget was innovation and accelerating Advance Queensland. Haven't they gone quiet now? In 2016, Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk said, 'Advance Queensland is key to our state's economic diversity.' The so-called innovation agenda has gone from hero in the 2016 budget to zero in the 2017 budget. It is no wonder, with questions being asked about the impact of the programs and how many jobs in Queensland they created. We fail to see the value in luring overseas companies to Queensland at the expense of Queensland innovation, Queensland small business and Queensland small start-ups. We have the talent here. Fifty thousand dollars of taxpayers' money was spent on this cardboard box. That is not a good return on that investment.

In 2016-17, there was another underspend on the Advance Queensland innovation programs of over \$13 million. Last year, it was over \$35 million. We are seeing an underspend in many other departments. One thing that I am pleased to see—and no member on this side of the chamber will be surprised by this—is additional funding of \$20 million for the continuation of the important LNP initiative, the one-stop shop program. Under the LNP government, it was a successful program. The members opposite were very quiet about it but, finally, they are seeing that only the LNP initiatives get the results.

An opposition member: It passed the test of time.

Mrs SMITH: It passed the test of time. It is practical solutions that get real results. Labor's plan for innovation is all about trying to pick winners—choosing one business over another. Minister Leeane Enoch has described Advance Queensland as throwing 100 seeds up in the air and seeing what comes

from it. That is no way to spend taxpayers' money. Taxpayers expect to see a return on their investment. The LNP believes that supporting start-ups, entrepreneurs and innovation is important but, if you cannot measure it, how can you manage it?

The best way to support this sector is by creating the right environment for success. That means government being the enabler rather than the doer. The private sector needs to generate the revenue to create the jobs. The LNP is looking at supporting services, and science and technology is one of our six key drivers of how we will create jobs and diversify the Queensland economy. We also believe that, when determining grants and innovation for Queensland businesses, proven success should be important. They have to take priority over international and interstate companies. When the LNP was in government, it invested millions of dollars in research and development grants to support innovation and boost productivity.

We also need greater support for STEM and similar subjects, because we know that the jobs of today will need to transition to the jobs of the future. As I said, at the moment Labor is gambling with taxpayers' money, trying to pick the next big thing. Labor believes that the government controls innovation. I do not believe that Labor has a real plan for innovation, except for endless media releases that no-one takes notice of anymore.

I again go back to the unemployment rate for the western suburbs of Brisbane. We have heard year, after year, after year, that it is about jobs. What do the figures show? In one year the youth unemployment rate in the western suburbs has increased 8.2 per cent. That sums it up. It is an absolute travesty.

The LNP understands that innovation should be led by the private sector. The government can support the private sector through a reduction in red tape, access to government data and lower taxes. When in government, the LNP kickstarted Queensland's open data revolution that for the first time saw government data freely available online. This open data revolution allowed the private sector to access previously hidden data and use it to develop business plans and ideas. I do not know if I have enough time to talk about Labor and IT, but let me just give it a little go.

Government members interjected.

Mrs SMITH: Given that I am getting cheers from the Labor members, I am happy to extend my time. IT under Labor has to be our favourite subject. I remind the House of the PricewaterhouseCoopers health check report for March 2017. I also want to highlight the observations of the author of that report. I mentioned those observations briefly a couple of months ago, but I will mention them again as a reminder. This is about Labor and IT. The author's observations are as follows: 'The Program has not been set-up to focus on the highest risk area.' After the Health payroll debacle, the alarm bells were ringing. The author, who was asked to do a health check on an IT project by this government, described the project as, 'Roles and responsibilities are ambiguous.' In decision-making, this government was indecisive—'Remaining uncertainty in scope and schedule.' Other observations included: 'Inadequate approach ...', 'Inconsistent Risk Management practices', 'Ineffective reporting practices', 'Inefficient resource usage', 'Ineffective practices being employed', 'Inadequate collaboration ...', '... improving management of ... contract', and, again, the word 'Inconsistencies ...'. I think members are getting my drift. The PricewaterhouseCoopers health check report told us that the government cannot manage in IT—something that we already knew.

This budget is a con job. Queensland desperately needs good government. Only the LNP can deliver such a government. Only an LNP government will create the jobs. That starts with better financial management. We have seen what has occurred over the past three years. We cannot afford a Labor government for the next few years. Only an LNP government will provide safe, livable communities. Only an LNP government will build stronger families who are the foundations of our communities. The LNP will build the roads, the bridges and the dams that we need. It is a better government, not a bigger government, that the LNP will deliver.

What are Labor's priorities in this con job of a budget? It is clearly not the electorate of Mount Ommaney. It is clearly not Advance Queensland. It is all about looking after one member of this House—the member for South Brisbane—to ensure that her seat is safe. That is what this budget is all about. It is also all about pork-barrelling the regions for those lemmings who are sitting opposite, who are desperate to hold on to their jobs, desperate to hold on to this gig.

(Time expired)

Sitting suspended from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (7.30 pm): I rise to support the Appropriation Bill 2017. What a very mediocre performance we have seen from those opposite this evening. It has been very mediocre indeed. We have heard speech after speech based on nothing but selective statistical analysis, platitudes, slogans and nothing of substance whatsoever. Tonight we have seen in spades a very, very mediocre opposition.

I want to start by commending the Treasurer for handing down an economically responsible budget that is great for jobs—this government's No. 1 priority. When it comes to jobs this government has outperformed those opposite on any measure independently assessed and looked at. Those opposite come in here time and time again trying to gain credibility on their performance with jobs when they were in government. If they think they are fooling anyone—or can I say conning anyone—they are doing nothing more than fooling and conning themselves.

Let me say from the outset how pleased I am, as the state's employment minister, that the budget includes an additional \$77.5 million to fund an expanded Back to Work jobs program. This includes an extra \$50 million in 2017-18 to support the continuation of the Back to Work regional program, with the new funds projected to support up to 3,400 new regional jobs. Isn't it great that we are extending this outstanding program to the south-east? From 1 July employers in the south-east who hire a long-term unemployed or a young unemployed jobseeker aged 15-24 will be in line for support payments of up to \$20,000. This part of the program is backed by an additional \$27.5 million in new funding. Queensland Treasury estimates this will support up to 1,500 new jobs in the south-east. What a great incentive for businesses in the south-east to hire a jobseeker.

We made the decision to expand the Back to Work program into the south-east because it is such an outstanding success in the regions and we want to see similarly outstanding results for jobseekers and employers in South-East Queensland. There is no doubt some in the south-east are facing employment challenges, particularly long-term unemployed and young jobseekers, and this includes jobseekers from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and those from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds. These are amongst the jobseekers that Back to Work South-East Queensland will target.

The results in regional Queensland speak for themselves. Already the program is supporting 4,841 jobs in regional Queensland, with more than half of those now in jobs being young people aged 15-24 hired under the \$20,000 Back to Work Youth Boost. There are also more than 800 pending applications being processed. Should all these applications be successful, this will take the total number of jobs being supported under the Back to Work program to more than 5,600 in less than 12 months. I am pleased to say the following local government areas in the south-east will soon be in line to benefit from this outstanding program: Brisbane, Redlands, Logan, Gold Coast, Scenic Rim, Ipswich, Lockyer Valley, Somerset, Moreton Bay, Sunshine Coast, Noosa and Toowoomba.

The Back to Work South-East Queensland program is capped at a maximum of five applications per employer, which represents a potential range of funding of between \$75,000 and \$100,000 for a single employer depending on the type of jobseeker employed. Importantly, given the popularity of the Back to Work regional program to date, the application cap will support a broad distribution of the available funding across employers who are supporting jobs in the South-East Queensland region.

Coinciding with the state budget, I am also pleased to announce extra support through WorkCover Queensland for employers employing apprentices. This package will deliver cost savings of around \$58.7 million to employers throughout Queensland through a direct reduction in their WorkCover premiums. WorkCover Queensland's premium and benefits package really is music to the ears of employers throughout the state. This package will deliver important cost savings to employers, making it easier for them to hire. An employer who pays the average premium rate of \$1.20 and who takes advantage of the early payment discount would pay the equivalent of \$1.14 per \$100 of wages. For small businesses with between five and 20 workers, this discount could deliver cost savings of more than \$1,000 a year.

In addition, we are encouraging employers to hire apprentices by covering the WorkCover premiums for apprentices. Businesses will pay no WorkCover premium for the apprentices they employ. This measure will deliver cost savings of up to \$5,800 a year for small businesses that employ between five and 20 workers. That is a great reward for those already skilling young workers and even more reason for employers to hire an apprentice. It is a great complement to the Palaszczuk government's 50 per cent payroll tax rebate for employing apprentices or trainees. Jobs, jobs, jobs—that is what this government is all about.

The state budget also includes \$8.2 million for Multicultural Affairs, an increase of five per cent on the previous year. This funding is part of our efforts to promote social and economic opportunities for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Ongoing programs being funded through the budget include \$1 million for the Celebrating Multicultural Queensland Grants Program for community events and projects to celebrate and promote the benefits of multiculturalism and \$2.2 million for the Community Action for a Multicultural Society—CAMS—program to facilitate social connectedness for culturally and linguistically diverse individuals and groups.

This is a state budget that gets the fundamentals right. A net operating surplus of \$2.8 billion is expected for 2016-17, with the budget forecast to remain in surplus in 2017-18. General government debt is also on the way down under Labor by \$14 billion compared to the LNP's projections. It is thanks to this sound financial management that we can continue to invest strongly in health, education, infrastructure, transport, the environment and community services. These sectors were all targeted for cuts in a string of brutal budgets handed down by the member for Clayfield, then treasurer, now Leader of the Opposition, but we are now investing once again in these important services, priorities that are always neglected when the LNP is in power.

The state budget includes record health spending in 2017-18. The health budget will increase by \$1.3 billion to \$16.6 billion in 2017-18. In addition to this, the Queensland Ambulance Service budget will grow by 6.9 per cent to \$719.6 million. This growth will enable the recruitment of an extra 75 ambulance officers. I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

In my electorate of Brisbane Central, the health budget will fund a series of important capital works projects and important grant funding for frontline services:

- \$5.3 million to fund the expansion of the nuclear medicine hot-laboratory at Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, worth \$6.1 million in total;
- \$3.4 million to complete the relocation of the Brisbane Dental Hospital, Turbot Street, to the University of Queensland Oral Health centre at Herston to allow the provision of state of the art dental facilities; and
- \$18.7 million to upgrade clinical systems for the Metro North Hospital and Health Service including cardiology, radiology, patient archiving, patient and medication management, and reporting and analytic part of the ICT program worth \$45.1 million.
- There's grant funding of \$2.47 million as part of a \$7.42 million commitment over 3 years to provide dementia respite services;
- Grant funding of \$2.85 million as part of a \$4.73 million commitment over 3 years to provide non-clinical support services to people with mental illness, their carers and families; and
- Grant funding of \$1.38 million as part of a \$4.11 million commitment over 3 years to provide palliative care services.

Education is also a huge winner out of this budget, especially in Brisbane Central. As part of the Palaszczuk Government's new \$500 million Building Future Schools Fund, a State High School on the site of the former Fortitude Valley State School will be built and run in partnership with QUT.

The LNP, led by the Member for Clayfield, had put up the "For Sale" sign on this site—they wanted to sell it off for development. But now Labor has saved the site from sell-off, it will instead get the first new State High School to be built in inner-Brisbane since 1963, along with one planned for the inner south.

To say that local residents are happy would have to be the biggest understatement ever—they're ecstatic.

Mr Speaker, one of the big ticket items in the State budget is Cross River Rail, and I welcome the Treasurer's announcement that the Palaszczuk Government will fully fund the project.

Cross River Rail will run through the heart of my electorate—an absolutely vital piece of congestion-busting infrastructure for the South East, and indeed for all of Queensland.

The Palaszczuk Government is committing \$2.8 billion over the next four years to this project, with a further \$2.6 billion to be allocated in future budgets for this vital piece of public transport infrastructure.

Cross River Rail is the key to transforming the public transport network in South East Queensland but its benefits go far beyond the inner city, helping to unlock economic opportunities that benefit the whole State.

This project means more frequent and reliable public transport options, and it will create 1,500 jobs each year as construction on the project ramps up.

Mr Speaker, the State budget also delivers record funding for the environment, with \$275 million over five years from 2017-18 for climate change initiatives and Great Barrier Reef protection.

There's \$175 million over five years to protect the reef and improve water quality, in addition to the \$100 million provided over five years from 2016-17 to address the recommendations of the Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce.

There's also \$23.3 million over four years, and \$5 million ongoing, to ensure strong environmental standards in Queensland and a further \$2.5 million to roll out a Container Refund Scheme.

Mr Speaker, we're also on track to ban plastic shopping bags from July next year and I know that this is something that the people in my electorate feel very strongly about.

These are all great Labor initiatives, Mr Speaker, being delivered by a Labor Government that understands the importance of balancing economic growth and sound environmental outcomes.

Mr Speaker, I also have good news for the racing industry, one that employs an estimated 30,000 people in this State. Race clubs are the lifeblood of dozens of communities throughout Queensland.

Our \$6 million Country and Regional Capital Works Program has spending across in three racing codes from all regions across the State.

The package includes \$4.4 million allocated to address infrastructure needs raised through a submission process, which invited race clubs to bid for funds.

Racing Queensland also identified a further \$1.6 million of projects through an extensive review process, with a total of 113 clubs benefiting from this package.

I'm pleased to be able to approve this funding program which will begin to address infrastructure requirements in the State's racing industry immediately, with phase one to be completed within 18 months.

Our clubs in country and regional areas are a key part of their local economies, and they also provide a strong social connection for local residents. They need to be supported and I know these projects will make a difference.

Each and every Queensland racing region will benefit from this new funding, with project examples including:

- recycled and water harvesting projects in Mackay and Rockhampton;
- transportable Starting Barriers to be shared between a number of thoroughbred clubs in the Central West and Downs country regions;
- upgrades and replacement of racing infrastructure including stewards' towers, running rails, barrier stalls and starting boxes at code tracks located across the regions;
- animal welfare equipment and amenities upgrades across the codes and regions; and
- track surface upgrades across the codes and the regions.

Earlier this month I also announced a major \$13 million redevelopment of the Ipswich Turf Club, being funded through the Racing Queensland Infrastructure Fund. The redevelopment will include turf surface upgrades, new stewards and jockeys' rooms, a function room and relocation of stabling areas to allow for commercial development.

Ipswich Turf Club is one of the largest thoroughbred racing clubs in Queensland, conducting around 45 race meetings each year yet it's 26 years since the club received any funding for new infrastructure.

This redevelopment will not only ensure the club's infrastructure needs are met into the future, it will also allow for potential additional income streams so that the club can secure its own viability and growth. It's also expected to support up to 40 local jobs during construction, which is great news for the local Ipswich economy.

Mr Speaker, this is a true Labor budget that invests in health, education, transport, and the environment, one that continues to restore the front-line services that were savagely cut by the LNP.

I commend the Bill to the House.

 **Mr CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (7.40 pm): One positive thing I can say about the Palaszczuk government's 2017-18 state budget is that it is the prettiest set of budget papers that I have ever seen. We have lots of bright colours and glossy photos. Unfortunately, what is contained in Labor's budget is far from pretty. In fact, for North Queensland and the Hinchinbrook electorate it is an ugly budget. While the Palaszczuk government's overheated jobs rhetoric is splashed all over it, all Labor's budget has delivered for the Hinchinbrook electorate is a cold shoulder.

I have now seen 11 budgets handed down but, sadly for North Queensland, I cannot recall one so bereft of new investment in the Hinchinbrook electorate as this effort from the member for Mulgrave. For example, there is not a single new capital allocation in the Cassowary Coast region or Hinchinbrook shire worthy of inclusion in the glossy action plans for Townsville or Far North Queensland. The one item in the Hinchinbrook shire that did get listed in the Townsville Action Plan is funding for the Cattle and Frances Creek bridges on the Bruce Highway south of Ingham, but that was first announced in last year's budget. Furthermore, 80 per cent of it comes from the federal government and construction is already well underway on the site. Indeed, this project was first identified several years ago as part of the former LNP government's Bruce Highway Action Plan.

Apart from that, the Hinchinbrook shire and the Cassowary Coast region have been completely abandoned by Labor in terms of new capital investment in this budget. On Townsville's northern beaches the story is marginally better. The budget contains a new \$7.5 million project to upgrade and widen the Bruce Highway between Deep Creek and Bluewater Creek; however, it must be pointed out again that 80 per cent of the funds for this Bruce Highway project come from the federal government. There are no other road projects listed in Labor's capital statement for the Hinchinbrook electorate.

The funds in this budget to complete the construction of a new state school at Burdell confirm an allocation that is also not new. It first appeared in the 2015-16 budget two years ago. Since 2011, I have worked hard to deliver it after exposing the fact that, despite being in office for 20 years and despite significant residential growth in the area, Labor had secured no land and had no plans to provide the education infrastructure for this area.

The budget also contains a new \$1.2 million allocation to upgrade the multipurpose hall at Bohlevale State School. This was announced some time ago. This is a very large state primary school with about 890 students and about 100 staff. However, this is not the only urgent issue at Bohlevale State School and it is not the only school on Townsville's northern beaches that deserves some attention in this budget. The traffic management situation at the Bohlevale State School has reached an unacceptable situation; it is dangerous. I know that Education Queensland and the Department of Transport and Main Roads know about it, because I have been onsite on more than one occasion with representatives of both departments along with the Townsville City Council. This unsafe situation for the students and staff at the school really needs to be addressed.

I am also disappointed that Bluewater State School has been overlooked in this budget. This is also a growing school with ageing infrastructure that needs to be upgraded. I submitted a proposal to the Premier in January 2016 when she was casting around for things to do as part of her Accelerated Works Program in North Queensland. I got a response from the Education Minister which rejected that proposal, and I have heard nothing since. Bluewater State School has been growing in recent years and now has over 400 students. It needs new permanent classrooms to replace existing temporary and demountable buildings, a new school hall to help with the growing demand for after-school care and a new administration block to replace the current one which dates from 1962. There is also a need to look at the traffic management arrangements at Bluewater State School.

There has been a lot of crowing from ministers and Labor MPs from Townsville about what Townsville's supposedly got out of the budget. With double-digit unemployment having endured in Townsville for more than 12 months and youth unemployment in Townsville at 20 per cent, the Palaszczuk government's third budget should be scrutinised for what it delivers now and how effective Labor policies have been at addressing this issue.

There is a fair bit of political spin associated with Labor's budget for Townsville. I have looked at what is actually in the capital statement for this coming year against the backdrop of these shocking unemployment figures I mentioned earlier. All the gushing media releases about apparent budget allocations need to be taken into consideration in that most of the promised expenditure will not take place for several years or is not new funding at all.

The reported \$936 million for Health in North Queensland is a far cry from the \$29 million that is actually in the capital statement. This includes a \$5 million clinical services redevelopment, \$1.6 million to relocate breast screening services, \$2.6 million for the paediatric unit, \$8.5 million for the ongoing Townsville Hospital expansion, \$6.7 million for health technology equipment, and \$4.7 million of minor projects and acquisitions.

While a lot of people are getting excited about the \$225 million allocation for Townsville's water security, the Palaszczuk government's budget papers indicate that Labor plans to spend only \$10 million in the next 12 months. That is about four per cent of the total budget. Interestingly, the water task force has yet to report or provide any recommendations about a preferred approach to resolving this critical issue.

There is no doubt that the North Queensland Stadium is a significant project for Townsville but, after years of talking, only 18.4 per cent or \$46 million is budgeted to be spent over the next 12 months. This item has been in the Palaszczuk government's budget three years in a row with various levels of funding and includes \$100 million from the federal government.

In the same way that the Cattle and Frances Creek Bridge projects on the Bruce Highway south of Ingham were announced last year and are not new funding, the federal government is providing 80 per cent of the funding for the Burdekin River Bridge project on the Bruce Highway between Ayr and Home Hill. These items pad out the Palaszczuk government's budget for North Queensland but they can take little credit for them. Despite the serious unemployment problem in Townsville and North Queensland, most of the items in Labor's third budget have already been announced, will not be spent for years or are significantly funded by another level of government. A lot of promises have been made to Townsville and North Queensland in this budget, but it needs to be pointed out that most of the funding has been put off until after the next election.

While the Palaszczuk government's Jobs for Queensland rhetoric is plastered all over these glossy budget papers, for Townsville and North Queensland youth unemployment remains a very serious matter. Labor is fond of talking up its Skilling Queenslanders for Work program, but it has not been successful in driving down youth unemployment rates in Townsville and North Queensland. I wrote to the skills and training minister and the employment minister in February 2016 to point out that the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program was rejecting applications from service providers with very high employment outcome rates.

The Ultimate Rural Training Centre at Alice River near Townsville is operated by well-respected local rural trainers Geoff and Vicki Toomby, and they get excellent outcomes. These ministers wrote back to me saying that the cost per participant was too high at the Ultimate Rural Training Centre, and I argued that outcomes were more important and that Geoff and Vicki Toomby achieve upwards of 80 per cent employment placement for students who complete their course. With 20 per cent youth unemployment still biting hard in Townsville, Labor needs to review their Skilling Queenslanders for Work program.

The LNP has committed to implement our plan to get Queenslanders working, with a targeted package of support for businesses and workers that will lead to jobs and opportunities, especially for young Queenslanders. This package includes the Queensland Apprenticeship Boost, the Tools for Tradies initiative, the Job Start Incentive and the Employment Bonus payment which will make a difference to youth unemployment.

Palaszczuk government MPs are also fond of reading out endorsements from mayors and councils from across Queensland about its so-called Works for Queensland program. I would be very surprised if any mayor or any council would say anything other than 'thank you very much' when the state government rings up out of the blue and throws a cheque for millions of dollars at them as long as they can spend it before November.

So completely and utterly clueless about how to grow the economy, so absolutely and tragically without any ideas of their own to create jobs, this indolent cabinet just decided to write out cheques to local councils across Queensland, because Labor have no plan of its own. The Palaszczuk government effectively subcontracted out part of its Capital Works Program to local government, because it is simply not up to the job.

Speaking of not being up to the job, the budget papers associated with the Department of Natural Resources and Mines are a pretty sad reflection on the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines. After two years of trading on the strong long-term investment by the former LNP government, the announced funding under the Palaszczuk government for two key departmental programs are a bitter disappointment. In the 2013-14 state budget the former LNP government invested a record \$80 million over five years in the Queensland Natural Resource Management Program. This program focused on three priorities: controlling pest weeds and feral animals; improving water quality outcomes; and supporting sustainable agriculture. Since then it has achieved very strong natural resource management outcomes.

Labor has traded on that investment over the last two years. Now when it comes to renewing that investment in that program we see the commitment slashed to \$42.3 million over just four years. That means the Queensland NRM program has been effectively slashed by one-third in terms of funding and the investment horizon for Queensland's NRM groups has been reduced. This is an appalling outcome under this minister.

What makes this savage cut to the Queensland NRM program all the more extraordinary is the constant rhetoric we hear from the Palaszczuk government about how concerned it is about the environment. Yet, when it comes to delivering the funding to do good works on the ground managing our natural resources, it was Cripps and not Lynham who came good to the benefit of Queensland's environment.

The other short-sighted investment outcome from the Palaszczuk government is the funding allocated to the Strategic Resources Exploration Program. Labor has announced a \$20 million commitment over four years—effectively about \$5 million a year. The fact is that Labor has been trading on the former LNP government's 2013-14 Future Resources Program investment for the last two years without any additional funding.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Elmes): Just one moment, member for Hinchinbrook. I would remind members on my right of standing order 244 which talks about people standing in the aisles. I would remind the member for Stretton that if he wishes to interject he should do so from his own seat.

Mr CRIPPS: It is okay, Mr Deputy Speaker, I do not mind. I am a big boy now. The current minister has not delivered any additional funding for the Future Resources Program in the last two Labor budgets and has effectively bludged off the \$30 million allocation that the LNP put in place in 2013-14. The exploration results that he has periodically reported to the House over the last two years are the direct result of the projects that I funded through the LNP's Future Resources Program.

Over the last two years we have heard ministerial statement after ministerial statement from the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines about all the things happening in the north-west minerals province, the Cooper Basin and elsewhere, but his dirty little secret was that these initiatives have all been made possible by the investment that the LNP made in 2013-14. Now, sadly, when it has finally come time for renewing that investment in the Future Resources Program, Minister Lynham has come up short.

So desperate was the minister to create an illusion that he had actually secured something meaningful in this third Labor budget, on Tuesday he issued a press release announcing the entire departmental budget as an investment in the next generation resource projects and jobs. Unfortunately, these program cuts that I have outlined in the NRM program and the Future Resources Program tell the real story about what is happening inside the once proud Department of Natural Resources and Mines.

However, it is not only in the Natural Resources and Mines portfolio where the LNP's achievements are still delivering better outcomes than anything Labor has achieved. In the State Development portfolio, the LNP's landmark Royalties for Regions initiative is still kicking goals in rural and regional Queensland, with \$38½ million spent last year and \$28½ million to be spent this year. Amazingly, \$22.3 million will be spent in the year after that.

The common denominator here of course is the Minister for State Development. The Minister for State Development, the member for Stafford, has tried to discredit the Royalties for Regions program while continuing to approve funds for great projects that the LNP allocated in the first instance. Labor's smaller, shorter and narrower Building our Regions program is a limping, lethargic, lacklustre shadow of the Royalties for Region program, to the ongoing embarrassment of the Minister for State Development.

I am delighted that in April last year the LNP committed to re-establishing the Royalties for Regions initiative, including reinstating the previous level of funding that has been slashed by the Palaszczuk government. Communities in regional and rural Queensland will once again be able to access funding for important community building projects that will have both economic and social benefits. I am proud of that commitment.

Speaking of embarrassing ministers, I have not overlooked my ongoing quest to work out what on earth the Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland is responsible for. I searched the Capital Statement, but there was nothing there. I searched the Budget Measures, but there was nothing there. I searched the Service Delivery Statements for the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and, lo and behold, I found the title of the minister on page 1.

Excited, I threw myself into the SDS, certain that after the third budget of the Palaszczuk government I would finally find what the blazes the Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland actually does. Page 5 mentions what the department does to support the minister. Page 5 also reveals what the minister has in terms of staff allocated to her. The SDS carries details of the minister's office expenses for the last financial year and an estimate for the coming financial year.

Imagine then my utter devastation when, for the third year in a row, I turned the last page of the SDS for the Department of the Premier and Cabinet without any information whatsoever being provided to inform the parliament of Queensland or the people of Queensland about what the Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland has done, is doing or plans to do in that capacity. How could this possibly be in a modern democracy?

For three years the Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland has avoided, squibbed and evaded the basic tests of transparency and accountability that every other minister has been required to report against in terms of public scrutiny of their performance in the executive. The minister is not responsible for any legislation associated with this portfolio title, there are no budget allocations associated with this portfolio title and there are no public servants that she is accountable for.

Other ministers in this government are routinely forced to surrender ministerial statements from their own portfolios to ensure that the Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland periodically has something to say in this place. The minister then stands up and pretends that she had something remotely to do with whatever had been done in a desperate attempt to justify this contrived, vacuous, illegitimate ministerial title.

I want to conclude by acknowledging the positive budget commitments outlined by the Leader of the Opposition in his budget reply speech. The LNP's commitment to freezing motor vehicle registration for a period of three years if we are successful at the next election will be welcome relief after Labor has treated motorists like cash cows in recent years by increasing registration at twice the rate of inflation. I also acknowledge the new deal for regional Queensland that the LNP has previously committed to, including a 10-year action plan to improve the Bruce Highway, building new dams to provide water security and job-creating agricultural projects, a plan to provide ongoing support for our resources, fair vegetation management laws for farmers and the protection of a hard won right to marketing choice for canegrowers.

The Leader of the Opposition has described the Palaszczuk Labor government's third budget as a con job. 'Con' is a slang word for the act of swindling someone by first winning his or her confidence—in other words, it is a confidence trick. Regrettably, this is a perfect description of the Palaszczuk government's third budget.

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (7.58 pm): It gives me great pleasure to make a contribution in support of the Palaszczuk Labor government's third budget. Can I start by saying that the self-confessed big boy from Hinchinbrook has shown himself to be yet again the big bully from Hinchinbrook. If the member for Hinchinbrook wants to talk about a con job then let us go back to 2012, when he was part of a team that conned the people of Queensland, and it took them three short years to boot them out. After almost two decades of uninterrupted time on the opposition benches, you think they would have held on to government for a little bit longer than three years—but they did not and that was because the biggest con artists in town were those opposite. The people of Queensland worked that out and put them where they belong—on the opposition benches.

This budget is fundamentally a Labor budget—it is a blueprint for the future of our state that recognises the aspirations of our community to grow our economy, to build the infrastructure we need and to preserve the things that are great about Queensland. It is a budget that prioritises the things that Labor and Queenslanders believe in—a budget that understands that the role of government should be to ensure that every Queenslander has access to affordable education, great health care and a roof over their head.

Most of all, this is a budget about jobs—jobs in the region and jobs in the city. It is a budget about the dignity of work and the right to a secure and safe, well-paid job. This budget builds on the work of the past two years, recognising the progress we have made and having an understanding of where we have to go and how we are going to get there. We have set a clear course away from the sackings, from the cruel cuts, from the ideological crusades and white elephant vanity infrastructure projects like the BaT tunnel and 1 William Street, which were the hallmark of those opposite during their first stint in government in almost two decades of uninterrupted time on the opposition benches.

The Palaszczuk government's 2017-18 budget articulates a clear path forward and delivers what our state needs. Most critically, our state needs Cross River Rail. This is a project that has been on the table for 10 years now and enough is enough. It is the Palaszczuk government that has funded Cross River Rail in this budget and it is the Palaszczuk Labor government that will build Cross River Rail. We could not wait anymore. South-East Queenslanders could not wait anymore. For the first time, this project has the real, secure funding that it needs to go ahead. This budget delivers that funding with a commitment to fully fund this project, with \$2.8 billion committed in this budget over the forward estimates and \$2.6 billion to be committed in future budgets.

This commitment has been welcomed right across Queensland and right across our nation. Stakeholders in infrastructure, public transport, property and development, tourism and even in health are singing our praises. That is because they, like us, know that this project means thousands of jobs, it means finally relieving the Merivale Bridge choke point in our rail network and it means doubling the capacity of our rail network. For everyday Queenslanders everywhere—from Moreton Bay to Redlands, Manly, Springwood and the Gold Coast—it means a more reliable, high-frequency network, fewer cars on our roads and more time at home with our families. It also means a once-in-a-century opportunity to shape our city and our region in exciting and, as yet, unimagined ways.

Steve Abson of the Infrastructure Association of Queensland summed it up perfectly when he highlighted the important benefits of the project. He said—

It's not only inner Brisbane residents and commuters whom set to benefit, Queenslanders from the Redlands, Northern Suburbs, Gold Coast and Ipswich should be rejoicing at this news. Cross River Rail will take up to 18,500 car trips off major arterial roads every day and save commuters valuable time, adding an extra 19,000 seats to our trains by 2036 during peak time. This project is also essential to relieving congestion pressures which—left unchecked—would cost our region \$9 billion by 2031.

Unfortunately, it is increasingly clear that, if they are elected, Tim Nicholls and the LNP will scrap this critical project—again. In his budget reply speech, Tim Nicholls did not mention Cross River Rail once—not one mention of Queensland's No. 1 infrastructure project. He could claim or commit to making a coal-fired power station a priority infrastructure project for this state but could not commit to Cross River Rail. It is clear: Queenslanders who care about a world-class public transport system, who want to see fewer cars on our roads, who care about our region and our city cannot risk the LNP because they will not commit to Cross River Rail.

Beyond the incredible city-shaping benefits of this project, it is also incredibly important for my electorate of South Brisbane. Residents in the inner south have been ready for this project for a decade. It will fundamentally transform our community, encouraging locals off roads and onto public transport. Significantly, Woolloongabba will get a brand-new train station which will integrate and enhance the already vibrant Logan Road and Gabba precinct. When we finish this project, people will be able to get on a train at Woolloongabba and get into the new Albert Street station in around one minute. This is an integral issue for my community and I am proud to be able to deliver it as part of the Palaszczuk Labor government.

Beyond Cross River Rail, the No. 1 issue in my community is education. Our schools are bursting at the seams, and Brisbane State High School is now the biggest school in our nation. Since I was first elected as the member for South Brisbane in 2012, I have worked tirelessly alongside my local community to ensure a real, long-term solution for education in the inner city is secured. We must ensure that, as our city becomes more compact and the inner city densifies, we must keep pace with the infrastructure needs of this growing population.

I am incredibly proud that this budget has funded the construction of two new high schools in the inner city. The construction of any schools in the inner city has not taken place since 1963. This investment in education for our community, which is growing and changing at an incredible pace, is crucial. It is also just what parents, teachers, principals and even students have been asking for to cope with the exponential growth in our local community. It will ensure that all local kids have access to a great local public school and are given the opportunity to learn in an environment that is best for them.

In addition to this brand-new high school, we are also fully funding the West End State School master plan. In last year's budget we funded \$10.75 million for the first stage of the West End State School Building our Future master plan. As both the local member and a West End State School mum—and there is the Minister for Education in the gallery—I have seen the school struggle to cope with a rapidly growing student population. The new master plan will give the fantastic teachers the space and resources they need to educate our kids.

Where the LNP wanted to sell schools, we are opening them. That is because we know that education is the key to a prosperous, positive future for our state and our state's people. Our government is investing in our kids right from the beginning, with the announcement today that we will be delivering a teacher aide for every single prep class, giving preppies the extra support they need as they start their education journey. This is the forward-thinking social policy that we are embracing across-the-board because we know that giving people the tools to succeed is the best investment we can make.

These values are also clear in our \$1.8 billion Housing Strategy, which will deliver 5,500 social and affordable homes over the next 10 years. This is the single biggest investment in housing infrastructure in decades and it is being delivered by the Palaszczuk Labor government. There is also the \$5.3 billion committed to our concessions and rebates program, supporting Queensland families who are feeling cost-of-living pressures and putting money back in their pockets. It is things like the electricity rebate or the School Transport Assistance Scheme in my portfolio that can make a world of difference to households doing it tough.

My electorate of South Brisbane is the heart of Queensland's artistic and cultural community, with our flagship cultural institutions calling it home. I am so pleased that this budget includes a \$17.5 million four-year Arts Infrastructure Investment Fund. A priority project for this fund will be the

redevelopment of Queensland Theatre's Bille Brown Studio in South Brisbane which will increase the theatre capacity to 350 seats to enable the company to host more main stage performances and attract the best and brightest national and international talent to Queensland.

Turning to other budget initiatives within my portfolio, can I first commend the incredibly important work of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority as it continues to deliver Queensland's NDRRA reconstruction works arising from disaster events from Tropical Cyclone Marcia to Tropical Cyclone Debbie. The work the QRA does to rebuild communities after disasters is incredible and cannot be underestimated.

In the area of transport, this budget will see the extension of our incredibly successful local fare scheme initiative, with an \$8 million injection of new funds and the extension of eligibility to include residents of the western cape and gulf communities. This program brings communities closer by making travel more affordable. This makes a huge difference to people living in remote communities, making it easier for them to access health care, education, employment or to visit family and friends.

This budget will also see the completion of Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 2 and the delivery of the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games transport plan. We will continue to implement the recommendations from the Strachan inquiry through our Fixing the Trains plan. With the announcements in the 2017-18 state budget, the Queensland government is now investing \$10.17 billion in capital works for 2017-18 and \$42.75 billion over the forward estimates period for infrastructure right throughout our state. Of this, over \$4.8 billion, or 47 per cent, is being invested in regional Queensland.

As Greg Hallam, Local Government Association of Queensland chief executive, said, 'This is a budget that is well considered and well targeted to helping those regional communities that need it most.' We responded by fast-tracking projects in regions such as Cairns, Townsville and Wide Bay through the \$440 million Accelerated Works Program. Now at \$2.2 billion, the State Infrastructure Fund is focused on delivering infrastructure projects which enhance productivity and support jobs. This is already funding a number of programs that target regional Queensland. This includes the \$180 million Significant Regional Infrastructure Projects Program and the \$300 million Priority Economic Works and Productivity Program.

The Maturing the Infrastructure Pipeline Program was initially funded through a \$20 million allocation from the State Infrastructure Fund. The program has received an additional \$10 million in this year's state budget. This program is fast-tracking the early stages of Queensland's infrastructure pipeline. A key benefit of the program is to enable state and local governments to leverage the information from these assessments for forward planning and budgeting processes.

Our most recent initiative, the Works for Queensland program, has also been boosted in the 2017-18 state budget. Regardless of what they say opposite, this is a true partnership program with local councils to deliver jobs and much needed infrastructure right throughout regional Queensland. Building on the program's success in 2016-17, a further \$200 million has been allocated to the program, bringing it up to \$400 million in total, which is delivering jobs by funding priority maintenance and community infrastructure in local government areas throughout regional Queensland. This is a program that is already delivering more than 700 community infrastructure projects and delivering almost 6,000 jobs for our regional and rural councils. At its heart this program is about recognising the important roles councils play in our local communities and empowering them to deliver the projects they need to support their communities.

This is a budget for all Queenslanders. It supports our regions and our cities and sets an exciting course for the future of Queensland. This is a budget that does what Labor does best: grow our economy while reducing inequality and delivering jobs. Today's employment figures tell the story. Under this government, unemployment is lower, growth is higher and debt is lower. That is what Labor governments do, and we do it by ensuring that there are more nurses in our hospitals, more doctors in our hospitals, more teachers and teacher aides in our schools and more ambos out on the road. We do it by ensuring that our cleaners get a good wage, whether they are in our hospitals or in our schools.

It is this side of the House that understands the dignity of work and the dignity of a job. It is this side of the House that will always put Queenslanders first. We will not cut their front-line services and we will do whatever we can to grow jobs right throughout this state. I am proud of this budget and I am proud to be part of this government. I know that it is only Annastacia Palaszczuk and Labor that can deliver for Queensland. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr WALKER** (Mansfield—LNP) (8.14 pm): We heard it directly from the Deputy Premier's mouth: a Labor budget it is, and boy is it a Labor budget! It is exactly what the Leader of the Opposition said it was: it is a con job. To hear words like the 'dignity of work' and the 'dignity of a job' coming from the

Deputy Premier's mouth when Queensland has the second highest unemployment rate in the nation, when youth unemployment in rural Queensland is 48 per cent—it is a disgrace to hear. We know that they are great at painting beautiful word pictures. They are great at programs that have sexy names, but the budget shows they are not great at delivering. We know that the 'jobs bonanza' budget is not a jobs bonanza at all, and we know that the debt reduction program did not reduce any debt. It is all hollow. When you look at it in detail, that hollowness rings out throughout this budget.

It is a budget which, unsurprisingly, contains a lot of figures, but one figure this budget did not contain is this figure: crime increased in this community and this state over the last year by six per cent. That contrasts with the years of the LNP government in which reported crime over our period in government fell 12 per cent. They are figures that you cannot argue with. No matter what beautiful word pictures are painted or what wonderful programs are named, in the end this government fails the people of Queensland in the key issue of protecting them in their homes, of keeping them free from crime, in ensuring they can go about their business safely and securely.

It is clear from the budget why that is happening. We have the performance of the courts set out in the budget papers. In each of the following courts they are failing their efficiency targets either in the civil or the criminal areas. They are failing it in the Supreme Court. They are failing it in the District Court. They are failing it in the Magistrates Courts.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Elmes): Order! There is too much cross-chatter in the chamber.

Mr WALKER: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. As I was saying, all of these courts are failing their efficiency targets—the Supreme Court, the District Court, the Magistrates Court, the Childrens Court and the Coroners Court. Each one is failing in either the civil or criminal jurisdiction to provide efficient justice to the people of Queensland. The courts say, 'Our lists are expanding because crime is expanding,' and we can understand that, but it is the responsibility of this government to properly fund these courts to meet their performance targets and to provide justice in an appropriate time to the people of Queensland. Our judges and our court staff are under stress. Parties are left waiting for justice to take its course. We know the old aphorism justice delayed is justice denied, but that is what is happening to the people of Queensland at the moment under this government. They are not getting the justice they deserve or the justice they need because of the way in which the courts are managed by this government.

In a circumstance where crime is increasing at six per cent per annum, we find that the approach of the CCC—the key body dealing with the fighting of organised crime—is being softened at a time when criminal gangs are re-establishing themselves in Queensland. The CCC budget goes backward with a reduction of about half a million dollars. While Labor has taken steps to weaken the criminal gang laws, to overturn strong juvenile justice laws, as crime figures climb through the roof, as the courts struggle to keep up, instead of funding the CCC properly they cut funding to the CCC.

The CCC's performance is also under the spotlight. The percentage of criminal entities disrupted as a result of CCC crime investigations reduced by 15 per cent in the last financial year. It failed to meet its efficiency target with respect to disrupting criminal entities, its key performance indicator. As I said, we introduced tougher laws. We cracked down on organised crime with an increased investment, and we saw crime rates reduce and bikies flee the state. Under this government it is clear that criminal gangs are back in business. The safety of Queenslanders is being put at risk. That is particularly so on the Gold Coast.

The other thing that shouts out from the budget papers dealing with the Department of Justice and Attorney-General is the steps this government is taking with respect to moving 17-year-olds out of adult prisons into juvenile detention. It is worth spending a bit of time on the history of this and looking at the whole picture, because it is an important policy issue to look at.

Let us go back to 28 July last year when the Premier told the ABC that taking 17-year-olds out of adult prisons was not a priority. They were her words as reported by the ABC. On the same day in the same report, the Attorney-General said that taking 17-year-olds out of adult jails was a complex issue. She was quite right. It is an extremely complex issue; it is a difficult issue. It is why governments have thought about it for so long and it is why it is wrong to embark on such a policy issue without having properly thought it through. It is complex indeed.

We live in a society in which children are maturing earlier. We need to know whether there is room for the 17-year-olds to move into these youth detention centres. We need to understand how we are going to keep seasoned 17-year-old offenders from influencing 10-year-olds who are also in the centre. We need to know how much it is going to cost and whether we can afford it. That is why it is complex. Yet, after the Premier had said it was not a priority and the Attorney-General had pointed out

its complexity, five weeks later on 2 September the Minister for Health called for immediate action and that seemed to do the trick. Suddenly, it became a priority. On 15 September a bill was introduced. What had been a low priority and a complex issue six weeks earlier had now become an urgent matter with a very simple solution.

What came out of the debate on that bill? The department advised in the explanatory notes that to do this transition properly would cost \$400 million in capital costs—that is to build a new centre to cope with the 50 transferees—and there would be a recurrent cost of about \$44 million. We know that the government do not have that sort of money. The government did not have a plan as to how to properly transition it, they did not have a budget to do it and they did not have the policies in place to protect younger detainees from the older imports. What did the government do? They simply adopted the principle and gave themselves a year to get it right—‘We’ll sort it all out by November 2017’—and the bill passed.

What has been happening in the meantime? There have been violent incidents in our youth detention centres, and the escalation of those is enormous. Staff are being terrorised, kids are on the roof in Townsville and in Brisbane, and the Attorney-General advised us this week that damage over the last two years has hit \$1.2 million. It is into that toxic climate that they are now proposing to bring fifty 17-year-olds.

What else have we learned in the time that has passed? In the few unredacted parts of the McMillan report into youth detention, they said that they cannot determine that there is sufficient room in the existing centres to house the newcomers. There is no outcome from that inquiry that there is space for these newcomers to be housed. In another redacted part of the report under the heading ‘Capacity concerns’, the comment after the big blacked out section states, ‘That is a sobering statistical prediction.’ That is in relation to the growth of numbers within our youth detention centres. Even without the 17-year-olds moving in, the numbers expected to come into our youth detention centres are huge. We can only conclude that, even without the transfer of 17-year-olds, the number of youth offenders is going to strain the system. We add to this the final disastrous conclusion of the McMillan report that says it is unable to conclude that our youth detention centres are free of systemic abuse. The very inquiry that was set up to find out whether there is systemic abuse in our detention centres comes to the conclusion that it cannot tell us.

All we know from what the government have told us after repeated questioning is that they still do not have a policy as to how they intend to transfer 17-year-olds into youth detention centres. They have a committee going that is going to sort it out by November. That is all we know. This is supposed to be a government that relies on evidence based policy. Well, the evidence we have is this: there is no room for 17-year-olds; there is not enough money to build the \$400 million new centre; there is no guarantee that the pattern of serious disturbances that we have seen in youth detention centres will cease; there is no guarantee that anyone who goes into youth detention centres will be free from systemic abuse; and there is no guarantee that older experienced offenders will be separated from younger inexperienced offenders. That is what the evidence says. It is a chaotic policy vacuum in which to place 50 serious youth offenders, putting them into a seriously more volatile situation than where they are now without the budget or the policy setting to do it safely.

What does the budget say about the cost? We have been waiting for six months to hear the plan. We still have not heard the plan but we have some figures. There is capital expenditure of \$16.9 million in 2017-18 for capital works to support the transition. That is well short of the \$400 million suggested if it is going to be done properly. It is \$16.9 million doing it on the cheap, against the \$400 million which the department said was needed. There is a recurrent \$44.8 million per annum, making a total package—even though it is done on the cheap—of just under \$200 million for a cohort of 50 offenders. That is \$4 million per offender.

In a budget which is reaching stratospheric heights in debt, how can we justify that expense without a plan or policy in place as to how we are to deal with this? Knowing that we are doing it on the cheap, how can we afford that in the budget context that Queensland faces at the moment? The big question—and it is the one I asked the Premier yesterday and she did not answer—is what Queenslanders are going to get for this money. What are the detainees going to get? What are the staff in those centres going to get to protect them? What are the communities that live around those centres going to get? That was asked yesterday and we did not get an answer. We still await that answer. We will certainly be taking that issue further when estimates hearings commence so we can find out what the community can expect for that extraordinary expenditure of money.

I want to talk about my local electorate. The Mansfield community is growing. There is significant infill development in Upper Mount Gravatt and Mount Gravatt East plus new housing estates in Rochedale. That growth presents tremendous opportunities for our community, but only if all levels of government are prepared to build the infrastructure. My community is extremely concerned that infrastructure is simply not keeping up with recent growth. Our already busy roads and our near-capacity schools all need investment, and this budget fails to deliver that. The budget shows that the government has given up on solving Upper Mount Gravatt's traffic chaos. It short-changed our local schools and it delivers little relief to families struggling with the cost of living.

In the last two financial years, this government has overseen the spending of \$900,000 on studies and business cases for development of a potential upgrade of the Logan Road and Kessels Road intersection. That is the major intersection outside the Garden City shopping centre; it is a huge intersection. During the last two years of studies, the government published no findings and have not consulted with the local community. I have asked numerous questions on notice to the Minister for Main Roads about this in an attempt to provide the community with some information. Residents deserve to know what the \$900,000 has been spent on and what progress has been made. In this year's QTRIP document, there is no mention of the project. It appears to be off the books entirely. It was never listed as a project on the TMR's website to begin with. It is an important long-term project, I admit, for our community but we need to know what the investigations have shown and what plans there are. My community has once again missed out on hearing that.

As I have mentioned in the House on several occasions, there is a project ready to go that would have an immediate impact on congestion in my electorate. The Player Street connection will improve traffic flow on Kessels Road. Importantly, it will improve access to streets off Cremin Street. These streets house hundreds of families, as well as provide an access point to the Upper Mount Gravatt State School. If Labor were serious about reducing congestion in Upper Mount Gravatt, they would join with the Brisbane City Council in funding the Player Street connection project. In the Brisbane City Council budget announced this week, they have reaffirmed their commitment to pay half of the \$11 million project cost. I should add that the project has an incredible cost-benefit ratio of 5.6. That means a \$5.60 return for every dollar spent. A large part of that is allocated to Kessels Road, which is a state road, a key road for transport to the port and an important artery for the economy of my part of Brisbane.

The Minister for Main Roads has become increasingly abrupt in his public comments on this project. The local community does not understand why the state government will not invest in a project relating to a state government road. They are sick of the inaction and they are sick of the politics. I remain open to hearing from TMR and the minister about what, if any, adjustments to the project can be made to get TMR support and to get this upgrade started.

I will move on to education. As I have previously said, I welcome the funding for a new hall at Mansfield State High School. In fact, last Saturday I hosted my annual Queensland Day awards in conjunction with the Southside sports club and local councillor, Steven Huang. We honoured Mansfield high's sports teacher, Mark Waugh, for his investment in getting this project off the ground. He has been campaigning for a long time. He got the school community involved and we got a petition to this parliament. It is a school, as you know, Mr Deputy Speaker Elmes, which has excellent achievements in both sport and the performing arts, so it is great that these departments will not have to share the same hall facility and the school community can be served by a better facility.

However, I note that the budget papers show the government is spending \$840,000 less than promised on the new hall, so it seems it is becoming the miraculously shrinking hall. I am concerned that it is not quite the project that was first sold to the school community. There does not appear to be any additional spending on capital projects for schools in my electorate given that \$840,000 gap. Both Mansfield and Rochedale state high schools have critical capacity issues that deserve attention. They are both crying out for more classrooms. They are both high-quality schools that attract large numbers of students. Rochedale State High School, in particular, is thriving thanks to excellent leadership from its staff and school community, but it is being held back by its facilities. Like other greenfield development areas, the massive growth in Rochedale will not see a new school built; rather, we need to invest more in the existing high schools as the population in the school catchment grows. I note that the government is spending half a billion dollars to address school capacity issues in their inner-city electorates. Unfortunately for the families in my electorate, it appears from the capital statements of the budget that not one cent is being spent to address classroom needs at Mansfield and Rochedale. That is a real concern and we need to do more.

I will finish by referring briefly to the Mount Gravatt TAFE site within my electorate. This budget has delivered no clarity on the future of the Mount Gravatt TAFE or how the new public housing strategy announced by the government will affect my local community. It has been more than a year since Labor

started investigating options for the Mount Gravatt TAFE campus. In May last year I went to a meeting held at the campus as part of the strategic training asset management plan process. At that meeting, at which the minister was also present, Labor's departmental officials made the point that nothing was off the agenda and that development of the site or part of the site for housing or student accommodation was on the table. Labor's new housing strategy says that surplus state land will be used for more public housing.

I call on the government to come clean on what their plans are for the Mount Gravatt TAFE site. I have asked the Minister for Training and Skills multiple questions on notice about this issue, but her answers provide no clarity. Before the last election, we had the Premier, the minister and several local Labor candidates rally opposite the Mount Gravatt TAFE with 'save our TAFE' placards. When he was the candidate, the now member for Greenslopes even wrote incorrectly on his Facebook page that the LNP government was closing the Mount Gravatt TAFE. Fast forward to today and this government cannot even confirm that the whole campus will not be bulldozed for public housing. Labor's hypocrisy on this issue and so many others is breathtaking.

My community needs to know what the future of the Mount Gravatt TAFE site is. The government has had long enough to make that decision. It should not be a difficult decision, because they have already said that they would preserve TAFE for TAFE purposes. If that is to change, let the government tell the community. Let the government own up to the fact that it is changing its position on this. Let the good people of Mansfield know what is going to happen to that important site within my electorate.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Elmes): Order! Before calling the honourable member for Ipswich West, for the second time I remind honourable members of standing order 244 about people standing in the gangways. I ask members to take their seats. I also acknowledge student leaders and their families from Benowa State High School, Aquinas College, Trinity Lutheran College and St Hilda's School in the electorate of Southport. Welcome to Parliament House.

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (8.33 pm): I am delighted to have the opportunity to congratulate the Treasurer, Curtis Pitt, on delivering his 2017-18 budget, which continues to steer Queensland on a path to ongoing economic and social growth. Our great state of Queensland is still recovering from the aftermath of three years of arrogant economic mismanagement by the Newman-Nicholls government. To address this, the Palaszczuk government has an economic plan that is single-mindedly focused on creating jobs, strong fiscal management, innovation, investment and infrastructure. This is a budget that supports all Queenslanders, particularly those in regional Queensland. It is a budget that will reduce state debt with a surplus of \$146 million in 2017-18.

The only solution the Newman-Nicholls government had to reduce debt was to sell assets. The proper approach was to be fiscally responsible and that has been achieved by the Palaszczuk government with successive budget surpluses. This year's surplus follows on from a surplus of \$1.231 billion in 2015-16 and \$2.8 billion in 2016-17. This is a budget that makes our financial surplus work for Queensland. It creates jobs, particularly in regional Queensland. It provides further business confidence, attracting investment, while strengthening economic growth. It will build vital infrastructure such as the long-awaited \$5.4 billion Cross River Rail project.

This budget confirms the Palaszczuk government delivers on jobs, services and infrastructure across the length and breadth of Queensland and my own electorate of Ipswich West has been well provided for. Before I outline how the budget delivers for Ipswich West, I thank Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk, Treasurer Curtis Pitt, Deputy Premier Jackie Trad and ministers Mark Bailey, Grace Grace, Anthony Lynham, Cameron Dick, Mark Furner, Mick de Brenni, Kate Jones and Mark Ryan, all of whom I met with prior to the formulation of the budget.

In January 2015 when I was elected to state parliament, one of my key election commitments was to address the crippling unemployment levels in Ipswich West. Therefore, I am pleased that the 2017-18 budget will deliver an estimated 2,200 vitally needed jobs for Ipswich. This will be achieved through an \$868.4 million investment in infrastructure and capital works, \$554.64 million for the Ipswich Hospital and West Moreton Hospital and Health Service, and \$30.1 million for maintenance and capital works projects for schools in the Ipswich district. I am also pleased to see that the budget provides for the Back to Work program to be extended to South-East Queensland businesses that hire either a long-term unemployed jobseeker who has been out of work for 12 months or more, or a young jobseeker aged between 15 and 24 years. There are payments of \$15,000 for employing a long-term unemployed jobseeker or \$20,000 for employing a jobseeker aged between 15 and 24 years. Payments are staggered across 12 months.

This budget not only delivers on jobs; it also delivers on infrastructure construction in Queensland, with a commitment by the government of \$42.75 billion over four years, creating an estimated 40,000 jobs. For Ipswich West the budget will provide funding for a wide range of infrastructure projects. The budget makes provision for \$42.1 million to continue the refurbishment of the Borallon Training and Correctional Centre, which was reopened by the Palaszczuk government after it was mothballed in 2015. This will provide much needed work for local tradies and businesses.

Borallon is unique as it is the only Queensland correctional centre that has a TAFE campus on site, providing a full range of courses for inmates, including certificates in literacy, numeracy, mechanical engineering and horticulture. It is accredited by the Correctional Education Association and is the first correctional facility outside the United States to achieve this distinction. The recommissioning works include removing hanging points in older style cells and refurbishment. The budget has also made provision for \$5.7 million out of a total spend of \$20.2 million to recommission and operate health and medical services at the centre. There will be a total spend of \$147.1 million over four years at the Borallon Training and Correctional Centre for recommissioning and operating expenses, delivering over 200 long-term jobs.

I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*. I can advise the House that I have shown my speech to the Deputy Speaker, who has approved it. I have emailed a copy to Hansard and I have given a hard copy to give to the attendants.

Leave granted.

Another job creation project for Ipswich West is further improvements to the Wulkuraka New Generation Rolling Stock Maintenance Depot with \$407 million provided in the 2017-18 budget, out of a total spend of \$4.156 billion, to deliver 75 new trains comprising six car sets and provide services over a 32-year period. It is estimated that when fully operational the depot will bring about 150 new jobs to the electorate of Ipswich West.

Other major vital infrastructure projects in the Electorate of Ipswich West that will be funded through this year's budget include \$1.8 million to replace aged secondary systems at the Blackwall Substation to ensure reliability of supply to the surrounding area.

The Lowood Water Treatment Plant, that supplies water to households and businesses in both the Somerset and the Lockyer, will benefit from a \$2 million upgrade out of a \$17.1 million total spend to improve the existing chemical building, storage and dosing arrangements, providing additional treated water storage and renewal of electrical instrumentation and control equipment.

Ipswich West is still recovering from a series of natural disasters that began with the 2011 flood and the budget provides \$801,000 out of a total spend of \$1,094,000 to the Queensland Reconstruction Authority for the electorate of Ipswich West.

The budget also provides \$690,000 in 2017-18 out of a total spend of \$1.5 million for the premier tourist attraction in Ipswich West, the Workshops Rail Museum at North Ipswich. These works will address critical maintenance and safety issues at the Workshops Museum and regional campuses.

Opened in 2002, the museum is located on the site of Queensland Rail's former North Ipswich Workshops, which at its peak employed over 3,000 people.

The site is also the base for Queensland Rail's Heritage Fleet with the very first train to run in Queensland steamed from here via Rosewood to Bigges Camp, now Grandchester, in 1865.

\$35,000 was also allocated under the ANZAC Centenary Grants Program for an upgrade to the Ipswich Workshops WW1 Honour Stone to provide better access for people with disabilities to attend and participate in memorial services.

On average about 90,000 people visit the Workshops Museum each year, with access considerably improved with the recently completed \$2.75 million upgrade of the Pine and Delacy Street intersection, which delivered on the election commitment that I made prior to being elected as the member for Ipswich West in 2015.

The 2017-18 budget provides \$5.1 million in 2017-18 to commence improvements to the Tallegalla Road and Lowood Minden Road Intersection on the Warrego Highway at Minden at a total cost of \$10 million.

The long-standing safety issues around Forest Hill Fernvale Road will be addressed with \$2.1 million in 2017-18 to complete pavement rehabilitation between Peregrine Drive and Railway Street in Lowood.

In Lowood, the budget also provides \$165,000 out of a total spend of \$300,000 to construct a soccer field and netball courts at the Lowood Recreational Complex, which is the home base for the Brisbane Valley Eagles Soccer Club and the Lowood Stags Rugby League Club.

As well, the budget also provides \$23,942 as part of a commitment of \$47,884 to install field irrigation at the complex.

The budget also advances the proposed upgrade of the Mt Crosby Road-Warrego Highway Interchange with \$70,000 for design work, bringing the total commitment for design work up to \$140,000.

I was also pleased to see that the budget will deliver a record spend of \$13.7 billion on state education spending in Queensland, with \$30.1 million allocated for maintenance and capital works projects for Ipswich District schools.

For the electorate of Ipswich West, through the School Infrastructure Enhancement Program, the budget provides for \$200,000 to refurbish Block B at the Tivoli State School and \$110,000 to demolish S and T blocks at Rosewood State High School.

The budget also addresses the issue of homelessness in the Ipswich District with \$974,000 funding for non-government organisations to deliver specialist homelessness services aimed at both reducing the number of homeless people and the number becoming homeless in Queensland by assisting people to obtain housing, maintain their housing and maximise their capacity to be independent, self-reliant and connect to appropriate social and community supports.

\$2.5 million is provided in the budget to assist people in Ipswich West with a disability, as well as their families, to access the support and services they need as they transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

The budget provides \$3.2 million as part of a \$13 million commitment over four years to provide out-of-home care placement services in Ipswich West to ensure children and young people in need of protection are supported and safe.

As well, the budget provides \$9,692 as part of a \$38,770 commitment over four years to provide support to vulnerable individuals and assist them to get their lives back on track.

There is also a commitment of \$225,786 as part of a \$903,144 commitment over four years to provide programs in Ipswich West to increase the ability of individuals and community groups to participate positively in their community.

The budget also provides total grants of \$145,257 to libraries in the Somerset Region.

Mr Speaker, the Treasurer's 2017-18 state budget is good news for the electorate of Ipswich West and delivers on job creation, infrastructure, schools, public safety and health.

The Palaszczuk government is focused on supporting continued growth and creating jobs for Queenslanders, while enabling the state's \$300 billion economy to transform to a more innovative, diverse and productive economy.

Mr Speaker, I commend the appropriation bills to the House.

 **Ms DAVIS** (Aspley—LNP) (8.39 pm): This year's budget is a con. What is even more appalling is the fact that the state's debt will hit the \$80 billion mark for the first time in our state's history despite all the raids and rip-offs that the Treasurer announced in last year's budget. That is the Labor way: spend, spend, spend and put it on the credit card. What does that mean for everyday Queenslanders? It means that the debt equates to just under \$16,000 for every single Queensland—\$15,795 worth of debt around the neck of every man, woman and child in this state. The greatest travesty is what they have to show for it, which is not too much at all. The deputy opposition leader has long spoken about the lack of vital infrastructure in regional Queensland, and this budget exposes underspending in infrastructure. Of course, let us not forget the infrastructure underspend of \$2 billion in 2015-16 and \$1.7 billion in 2016-17. In contrast, the LNP was set to deliver half a billion dollars more in job-creating infrastructure projects over the next four years.

As a former small business owner, I know just how important small business is for Queensland. It is the economic driver, the powerhouse, the backbone of the economy. The LNP 'gets' small business. It is in our blood; it is in our DNA. This year's budget shows the low level of regard that Labor has for small business with three lousy sentences at the end of the Treasurer's budget speech. The LNP, on the other hand, supports—and will always support—small business and acknowledges the great contribution they make to the Queensland economy.

The jobs bonanza budget is a hoax. Business investment went backwards last year and is forecast to stay flat this year. Economic growth has been revised down across multiple years and business confidence is low. Unemployment is expected to remain above six per cent and higher than the national average over the coming years, and employment growth for the coming year has almost halved in just six months. Under this government youth unemployment has skyrocketed. What must our young people be thinking as they stare down the barrel of unemployment?

That is why the LNP will create jobs and diversify the economy by focusing on six priority areas. One of those six priority areas is education. Queenslanders, especially young Queenslanders, deserve that strong commitment. Labor's education budget has been exposed as all talk and not a lot of action. The politicking from this part-time education minister has been exposed as just that. The minister is happy to whinge and whine in public and attack the federal government about the level of Commonwealth funding for Queensland schools, but while she is happy to attack in front of the cameras we all know that she will 'do the deal' with the federal government behind closed doors because she knows that the additional 28 per cent will benefit Queensland students.

Queensland students and their parents, principals and teachers want—and deserve—tangible outcomes, so what do we know from the budget papers? Well, we know that standards have slipped. Supposed record spending in education has delivered a failure to meet 18 out of 24 national benchmarks. The budget papers tell us that targets were not met in the following areas: year 3 Indigenous numeracy; year 5 reading, writing and numeracy; year 5 Indigenous reading and numeracy; year 7 reading, writing and numeracy; year 7 Indigenous writing, reading and numeracy; year 9 reading, writing and numeracy; and year 9 Indigenous reading, writing and numeracy. Eighteen targets failed out of 24 measures. We need to be setting standards for our kids to reach their potential and to reach these NAPLAN benchmarks. Our children are our most important and valuable commodity. We need to invest in their future, and those results show that our part-time minister has failed to do so.

Last year we saw Labor rip \$191 million from the education and training budget through their reprioritisation program—the Labor cuts program. This year they are ripping out another \$77 million. That is a total of \$268 million which has been ripped from the budget in just two years. We have seen

capital investment slashed in regions right across Queensland: for example, in Brisbane east \$3.7 million was cut; Cairns will see almost \$5 million slashed from education capital; on the Sunshine Coast they are suffering a \$12 million cut to capital spend this year; Ipswich gets \$2 million less; and in my part of the world, Brisbane north, that cut is \$3.9 million.

At a time when 11 out of 19 regions in Queensland have seen youth jobs disappear in the last year, it is concerning that school based traineeship completions are down by eight per cent, particularly as Queensland has lost more youth jobs than any other state in the last 12 months. The youth unemployment rate is above 20 per cent in Brisbane east, Cairns, Townsville, Wide Bay and outback Queensland. ABS figures highlight the extent of the youth jobs crisis facing many regions in Queensland under this do-nothing Palaszczuk government. Young Queenslanders are being left behind, with youth jobs disappearing from the majority of regions in Queensland. This youth unemployment crisis extends to many parts of the state, particularly regional Queensland. The latest ABS figures show that the number of young Queenslanders with a job has fallen by 10,400 in just the last year. That is by far the worst fall in Australia.

Queensland should be leading the nation in job creation and security, but sadly under this government we are coming dead last. That is why it saddens me to see fewer students doing school based apprenticeships. Under Labor there has been a drop in the number of commencements and completions. Not every student that goes through to year 12 is going to go to university, and we need to equip them with the best chance of getting a great job. What better way to do that than getting them a trade and a job before they even leave school. It is a shame that this do-nothing part-time minister cannot follow her own department's mantra on school based apprenticeships. School based apprenticeships and traineeships are perfect for high school students who want to get a head start on their career.

When it comes to promised capital investment in education, it is a case of 'promise the world but fail to deliver'. Kids at Caloundra South will have to wait longer thanks to a \$19.6 million delay. Townsville kids will have to wait longer for their new school—a \$12.5 million underspend. Gold Coast students will be crammed into classrooms longer after a promised new school for Coomera is delayed and scaled back. More concerning for students and parents is the fact that the new Coomera school has had almost \$18 million slashed from the overall budget. Labor has abandoned the Gold Coast when it comes to education investment. Less capital funding means fewer jobs for local Gold Coast businesses to build our classrooms.

This government continues to spruik that this is a budget for regional Queensland and that it cares for regional Queensland. If the education minister was that interested in the issues that affect regional Queensland students, she would have been front and centre at the Isolated Children's Parents' Association conference in St George last week. Given that she can only manage to dedicate about 20 per cent of her time to education, perhaps we should not be surprised at all.

An opposition member: A part-time minister.

Ms DAVIS: Absolutely. I take that interjection. The minister should have been there to hear the issues facing rural and regional students and their parents. It speaks volumes about the real lack of commitment of this government to regional Queensland. Surely they could have found one government member to attend. Where was the chair of the parliamentary education committee? Where were Labor MPs from regional Queensland? By contrast, the LNP listens to regional parents. I was there; the member for Broadwater, in her role as deputy chair of the education committee, was there; the member for Warrego was there; the federal member for Maranoa was there; and Senator Fiona Nash, Deputy Leader of the Nationals and Minister for Regional Communications, travelled up from New South Wales to be there. We were there to hear the concerns of regional Queensland parents and stakeholders, but members of the Queensland Labor government could not be bothered. Instead, regional parents across Queensland were delivered a slap in the face by the minister because the minister was too busy back in Brisbane pork-barrelling to save her Labor mates. The minister's priority was not isolated children and their parents: her priority was making announcements to save the inner-city seats of the Deputy Premier and the Minister for Industrial Relations. Worse than that, the plan for a new school in South Brisbane was so well thought out that all they know is they are going to build a new school somewhere in the Deputy Premier's electorate; they just do not know where yet. Perhaps it will be in an area with the highest Greens vote.

One of the great privileges of being the shadow minister for education is the opportunity to meet wonderful principals and teachers and see the great work they do to excite our students and walk with them on their educational journey. I am always inspired by their commitment to their vocation and their

commitment to our kids. I have spoken to many teachers who are struggling or simply tired of dealing with the behavioural challenges of students, including physically and verbally abusive students. Many indicated that they did not know whether they would stay in the profession because they felt entirely overwhelmed. This is very concerning. With projections that we will not have enough teachers in five years time, we need to be providing those in the profession now with a framework that supports them and assists them to feel confident, capable and safe in the classroom, not pushing them out the door. Many have told me that they feel this government is putting the issue in the too-hard basket and just hoping it will go away. This is not good enough. The minister needs to open up her eyes, show some leadership and start to address this increasingly prevalent problem in our classrooms and schoolyards.

This time last year the Premier and the Minister for Education made a series of guarantees about increasing participation rates at the school in Aurukun. This budget talks about a heightened response for Aurukun. What we want to know is: is this heightened response actually working? Are the kids going to school? The budget is absolutely silent on that. The minister has visited the school only once since the budget was handed down last year, and Aurukun kids deserve better.

Mr Minnikin: How long was she there for?

Ms DAVIS: In and out, as I understand.

Queensland is moving from the OP system to the ATAR system and updating its secondary curriculum at the same time. The Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority is supposed to be in the final stages of the transition to the ATAR system as we speak. Education stakeholders like the Queensland Catholic Education Commission and Independent Schools Queensland were working towards the time line to make sure their teachers were supported, to make sure the students were supported and to make sure the parents and families were supported, but this government and the QCAA failed and have had to delay transition by another year. Queenslanders deserve better than this. The government's own budget papers admit and show that the QCAA did not meet its own service standards in 2016-17. What guarantee is there that it will in 2017-18? There is no guarantee from this part-time Minister for Education. The Palaszczuk government has taken the Education portfolio for granted. The minister seems more interested in throwing money into Labor electorates for political gain than in ensuring that investment in education is hitting the mark with respect to increased outcomes for our kids.

While Labor is happy to throw buckets of money at Labor members' electorates, it has ignored the Aspley community. The budget is nothing short of an assault on the hardworking families, businesses and seniors in the Aspley electorate. The budget confirms what local residents have been saying to me for a very long time now. No matter how you travel to and from work—indeed, no matter how you travel, full stop—this government is intent on punishing you. Year after year, Labor has increased family car registration by 3.5 per cent—more than twice the rate of inflation. Queensland motorists—Aspley motorists—were being treated like cash cows because the Labor Party could not manage its budget. The Palaszczuk government was dragged kicking and screaming to adopt the LNP car registration fairness pledge that capped car registration to the inflation rate, but the budget reveals that it will not kick in for two years. Today the opposition leader announced that a Tim Nicholls led LNP government will freeze family car registration for three years. Queenslanders know that this is fair dinkum, because we have done this before. We are committed to keeping the cost of living for Queensland families under control.

The Palaszczuk government's interactive regional action plans map is both instructive and woeful for the people of Aspley, because the number of projects earmarked for the electorate is a big, fat zero. How nice it would have been if even a fraction of the effort that went into producing this map and accompanying material was instead spent on addressing the gridlock on our local state roads. If it helped the minister, I would be delighted to provide him with my own map, complete with colour coded pins on each of our congested roads and intersections that have been neglected by this government.

Last night this parliament condemned the Palaszczuk government for cutting over \$400 million from road infrastructure across Queensland—\$400 million of infrastructure ripped from the budget with the stroke of a pen. Just think what even a slice of that \$400 million would have done for motorists in the Aspley electorate. With no relief in sight, sadly there will be plenty of time to think as residents sit queued in traffic trying to simply get through another intersection.

Clearly, the Palaszczuk government does not care about congestion in the Aspley electorate, nor that locals deal with around 70,000 cars travelling along their main road—Gympie Road—every day. It is not only locals that feel the effects of traffic congestion in my part of the world. Motorists travelling to the city from the north coast sit in long lines of traffic waiting to get through the bottleneck

at Beams and Gympie roads. We know from the constant rhetoric of the government that this budget is about jobs and infrastructure, so what future plans does the government have for this dreadful intersection? How many jobs and how much infrastructure spending will be dedicated to this area? A quick look at QTRIP, released just two days ago, gives us the answer: nothing at all. That is right: nothing at all. The intersection of Beams Road and Gympie Road is not even worthy of a line in QTRIP. Of course, this intersection will be impacted further with the thousands of people expected to reside in the Carseldine Urban Village development, a development foisted on the local community by the Deputy Premier without consultation. Of course there is money in this budget for that—nearly \$900,000 for a development that locals do not want. As much as this government tries to spin it, the fact is that the land the development will sit on will be sold. It is an asset sale disguised as a joint venture.

Whilst the Beams and Gympie roads intersection has been abandoned, the traffic heavy Linkfield Road has been afforded a measly \$45,000 for work. This \$45,000 is supposedly for the construction of auxiliary lanes. For \$45,000 the department will be lucky to afford the witches hats and road safety signs required just to start the project. Aspley residents deserve better. This government stands condemned for refusing to invest in the road and transport infrastructure we so desperately need.

Aspley residents deserve a government that provides a safe and livable community. They deserve a government that values the hard work of our police and emergency services workers and volunteers. In the Aspley electorate we are served by three great police stations—Albany Creek, Carseldine and Boondall. I take the opportunity to acknowledge the great work of our local police officers. The budget announced this week has shown that, despite a continued rise in crime rates across this state, the Palaszczuk government underspent on critical police resources. At a time when crime is on the rise, the Labor government is intent on looking the other way and not supporting our hardworking police officers, who every day put their lives on the line to keep our communities safe. In fact, the way this government is treating the men and women who even volunteer to assist with our justice system is an outrage. Not content with denying our front-line police the support and equipment they need, this government has sought to make a quick buck off JPs. JPs freely give up their time and help ease the burden on our justice system, yet this week the government made it clear it intends to punish JPs by slugging them, increasing fees by 200 per cent. Aspley JPs deserve better.

A healthy healthcare system is important to Queenslanders. It is important to the residents of my electorate. Clearly, it is not important to the Palaszczuk Labor government. Our health system is one of the state government's primary responsibilities, but the Labor health report shows it is in critical condition. They have put the rest of Queensland on the waitlist. This year's budget shows how growth in state funding to our health system has shrunk to just three per cent, compared to 14 per cent growth in funding from the Commonwealth government.

With respect to education, unless it is buried somewhere in the budget, there is no funding for a new multipurpose building for Aspley State High School to respond to growing student numbers. The Aspley High community was livid they were overlooked in the \$200 million cash splash announced a few months ago, and they are feeling more livid now. The kids at Craigslea State School will still have to play on a rock-hard oval because there is no money for that upgrade.

This budget is a con. It is a sham. It is a jobs bonanza budget without jobs. Queenslanders will see it for what it is. Only the LNP will create jobs across Queensland and better manage the finances. Only the LNP will build stronger families. Only the LNP will provide safe and livable communities. Only the LNP will build the roads, the bridges and the dams we need. Only the LNP will deliver better government, not more government. Only the LNP can build a better Queensland.

 **Mr PEARCE** (Mirani—ALP) (8.59 pm): For the 21st occasion I stand to speak to the budget, the third Curtis Pitt budget under Premier Palaszczuk. Today I will start my response by focusing on the Sarina Hospital and the allocation of \$1 million as a first stage towards the \$16.5 million commitment to improving the hospital and medical service for Sarina and district. This \$1 million is to fund phase 1 which is about the planning and the design of the facility. On page 104 of the Capital Statement for Queensland the total estimated cost of the hospital is \$16.5 million, with \$1 million allocated in this budget and a post 2017-18 budget allocation of \$15.5 million. During this initial phase there will be a transparent and open consultation process—a process that will allow members of the public to submit their ideas and propose what services should be provided by the hospital. I want the people of Sarina and district to have some ownership in this most important new piece of infrastructure—a hospital and health service provider that meets the standards and expectations of the population.

While there are some people who expect new facilities to appear overnight, I have to say that it just does not happen that way. I have played a role in the delivery of a new hospital at Mount Morgan as well as a new hospital at Moura, and those experiences remind me of the frustration that comes with

the necessity to get it right. We have the first phase \$1 million on the table. It is now up to the community to keep on my back to ensure that the government gets on with the job. This \$1 million is part of the wider project worth, as I said, of \$16.5 million. It will ensure people in the region have access to modern and quality facilities going forward, and I know that the people of Sarina and district are most excited about this great news. On behalf of every person who will benefit through quality care and the jobs that will come with the new facility, I thank the health minister, Cameron Dick, for putting this funding on the table and announcing that the Sarina Hospital is a goer.

Last week as part of the budget process I joined Julieanne Gilbert, the member for Mackay, and the Treasurer in a pre budget announcement on a property that a biofuels plant would be constructed in Mackay, further diversifying the region's economy and a boost to the forward thinking of the Mackay region's canegrowers. When they sit down to think about it, they will realise that they are the early pioneers of an exciting new era in primary production that will provide hundreds of new jobs in the biofuels sector with a much sought after cash flow across local economies. In the 2017-18 budget year Mount Morgan will benefit from a \$1 million grant to the Rockhampton Regional Council to expand on the existing sewerage network. Madam Deputy Speaker Linard, I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

I have dedicated most of my adult life to defending the rights of individuals, families and community. I am not ashamed to admit that as Jim Pearce, I have a most humble background—

I have seen on many occasions good people being, what I call 'being done over by bosses': by Government, by the system including the likes of insurance companies and multinational employers.

But, as a Labor member, of a Labor Government in this Parliament, I am proud.

When, as a Government, we deliver Labor values and maintain the principles of the Labor Party, I feel as though I have played an important role in the wellbeing of this State.

This year, the Treasurer has delivered a Labor budget. A Budget that delivers jobs. Delivers housing. Delivers health care and education.

Having a secure job is fundamental to the raising of a family—being able to afford to purchase a home, provide opportunities for a solid education and the ability to access affordable health care. This budget provides these opportunities.

I will now provide the Parliament with a run down on some of our Government's policy outcomes—Policy that is about caring and sharing for all Queenslanders. Caring and sharing with families, school students, parents, workers, unemployed, disabled and the elderly. I am angered by the Multi National employment policies in the engagement of labour hire to 'rip the guts' out of workers' wages and conditions. To bulldoze local and regional communities in to a cesspit—where no one—and I mean no one, in authority cares.

Well thank God for Labor policies. Policies that provide opportunity for young people, long term unemployed and those who have been dumped on the scrap heap by greedy ruthless employers.

Back to Work Program

Skilling Queenslanders for work has provided training for 354 people with 197 going to start full time or part time work.

Apprentice and trainee payroll tax contributors, 1390 businesses, to re-invest \$2.4M into their business. And support our youth in getting into the workforce.

\$1.4 million paid to employers to directly employ 384 young Queenslanders.

\$5.3 Billion to Lower the Cost of Living through:—

- Pensioner rate subsidy—28% subsidy up to \$200 a year for local Government rates and charges;
- A rebate of up to \$341 a year towards electricity cost;
- Water Subsidy scheme—up \$120 a year to eligible pensioners and property owners in South East Queensland.

The Government has also in our region allocated \$13.7 million to local Government for projects to deliver critical infrastructure and support jobs. This Government budget is again backing employers now considering putting apprentices on. They will not be required to pay Workcover insurance costs. The Government and Workcover will ensure that apprentices hired under this arrangement can go to work with the ability to access workers compensation at no cost to the employer.

Housing Minister—Mick de Brenni has introduced policy and funding allocations to put in place the biggest commitment to housing in this state's recent history. This includes, as part of a \$1.2B to renew the social housing property portfolio:

- \$420 million to boost the supply of social housing
- \$75 million to progress home ownership in discrete Aboriginal and Islander Communities
- \$100 million for reforms to the housing and homeless service system.

There is an additional \$30 million in 17-18 to extend the temporary increase in the Queensland first home owners grant from \$15,000-\$20,000 for six months.

The Palaszczuk Government is doing what it can to give our youth a chance. A chance to get the skills, the jobs and work towards getting a home. A Government can only do so much. From my experience in Parliament, I am certain that this budget delivers for youth—skills training—Relief for employers taking on apprentices and subsidies to employers who give an unemployed person a job.

Not only is Government providing opportunity for youth and long term unemployed, it has spent the last 3 years restoring front line services. After the LNP sacked more than 14,000 public servants—After the promise that no public servant under a Newman Government would lose their job.

In Central Queensland alone, our Government has restored 91 extra nurses, 56 extra doctors and 68 extra teachers to deliver front line services.

I want to focus for a short time on Media, who seem to think they know all about the economy and job status. Media continue to argue that unemployment numbers are in decline. The problem we have here is that conservative Governments never consider the consequences of the actions of big business when talking about jobs, unemployed, under employed, the use of contractors and labour hire.

Every employer, every Federal Member of Parliament, especially the 3 Central Queensland Members we have representing us in the Australian Parliament have turned their backs on the workers and community. They have no understanding of what is happening to the work force structure that puts people in to secure jobs.

An ever growing casualised Workforce, means more workers in insecure work. The situation is that those workers being forced into a casualised work environment are unable to borrow money due to job insecurity. The wages they get are less than what they were. Cash flow is reduced across the economy. Small business is hit hard by reduced cash flow. Turnover is on the slide. Employees are told they have less hours of employment or no job at all.

When cash flow is reduced, there are less people with secure jobs. Small business has less consumers walking through the door.

House and unit sales drop off because people in insecure work can't get the loan to have enough money to put down a deposit and pay the mortgage. People have a similar problem with buying a motor vehicle, buying a holiday, buying an education for their children. I am the first one to admit that I am not the brightest light in the Parliament, but I have enough life experiences and common sense to see what is happening. The problems we are creating for the families of our very own sons and daughters.

I would like to finish by saying that the Palaszczuk Government's 2017-18 budget is committed to delivering jobs, delivering housing, delivering health care and education and delivering opportunities to the communities in my electorate of Mirani and to the people of Queensland.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (9.03 pm): We have heard Labor describe this year's state budget as a jobs bonanza. What an absolute oxymoron! Labor has failed to create jobs over the last 2½ years and, with the definition of 'bonanza' being a situation which creates a sudden increase in wealth, good fortune or profits, it is safe to say the Labor budget is no bonanza. It is really more like a re-run of the 1970s western TV series of the same name. Madam Deputy Speaker Linard, perhaps given your youthful appearance I can inform you that *Bonanza* was the first TV series where the episodes were based around a family and their week-to-week troubles—very much like the dysfunctional and divided Palaszczuk Labor government!

The Labor state government budget for 2017-18 can only be described as one of spin and rhetoric or, alternatively, it could be classified as smoke and mirrors trickery. This year's Labor government budget must also be seen in the context of the previous two Labor state budgets which saw raids on both public servants' superannuation and long service leave entitlements and debt loaded onto our government owned electricity companies. The 2017-18 state budget shows a blowout in debt, deficits and expenses growth, with revenue forecasts also being revised down. We know that the Palaszczuk Labor government uses selected statistics to hide the true picture that is facing ordinary Queenslanders, including my constituents in Moggill, in relation to employment and higher cost-of-living pressures. Under Labor, unemployment is projected to remain above six per cent. Less jobs are forecast to be delivered, with employment growth being revised down. Queensland is fighting South Australia for last place when it comes to unemployment. Debt is projected to increase to over \$81 billion by 2020-21. This will be the first time in Queensland's history that debt will exceed \$80 billion.

Independent reports continue to illustrate that Queensland is falling further behind other states when it comes to business confidence and economic performance. Thousands of full-time jobs have been lost in Queensland over the last year. To the beginning of May 2017 and looking back over the past year, the number of young Queenslanders in a job has fallen by thousands. Infrastructure spending over the next four years is still going to be half a billion dollars lower than what the LNP was set to deliver and bankruptcies are up in Queensland due to Labor. We know that the Palaszczuk Labor government is beholden to unions and that Queensland is the strike capital of Australia. Over the last year more than 50,000 working days were lost in Queensland due to strikes. This is almost double the number lost when compared with New South Wales. Previously in Brisbane we have seen unionists undertake unlawful industrial action. As the member for Kawana, Jarrod Bleijie MP, has said, these strikes are adding to the cost of buying a home or adding to the cost of doing business and everyday Queenslanders are picking up the tab.

With declining business confidence, consumer and retail sector spending are also both under significant pressure. Queenslanders are rapidly losing confidence in this Labor government. The Palaszczuk Labor government's lack of a cohesive strategy and plan to create jobs, expand our

economy, build infrastructure and provide the health and education services we need is being felt not only in my electorate of Moggill but also right across Queensland. This do-nothing Palaszczuk Labor government has been rated as the worst by the property and construction industry. Also, all Queenslanders are paying the economic price for Labor's failure to address union bullying and intimidation on Queensland's work sites.

Under this Labor government, building approvals have fallen and investment has declined. Labor's youth jobs crisis is affecting urban, regional and rural Queensland. In parts of our state youth unemployment is well over 20 per cent and in Western Queensland it exceeds 40 per cent. Queensland should be leading our nation in terms of job creation and job security, but sadly under this do-nothing Labor government Queensland is coming dead last. Cost-of-living pressures continue to increase for families and residents in my electorate of Moggill. We are all being slugged higher electricity prices under this Labor government. Labor has loaded up government owned electricity companies with \$5 billion of debt and increased dividends to 100 per cent, forcing government owned electricity companies to increase electricity prices. There is no doubt that having debt-laden government owned generators inevitably leads to higher electricity prices. Households will be paying \$105 more a year and small businesses \$200 more a year.

Through an exercise in creative accounting, the state Labor Treasurer has also said that he is going to pay for part of the power price rise that his Labor government created by subsidising the increase with taxpayers' money, so in the end under this Labor scheme the increase will be twice as much as forecast with taxpayers also being hit with a bill for hundreds of millions of dollars. In Queensland taxes have increased more than \$200 per family since Labor's election to government. Queenslanders do not need more feasibility studies; what they need is real action. Queenslanders are desperate to build a better Queensland, and that is exactly what the Liberal National Party will do. Over the last few years we have also seen the state Labor government slug my constituents and the people of Queensland with 3.5 per cent increases on car registration. For the past two years Labor has been treating Queenslanders like cash cows. It must be remembered that the LNP froze car registration for the three years it was last in government. As outlined by the LNP opposition leader today, a future Nicholls LNP government has committed to a family car registration freeze.

In my electorate of Moggill and more broadly in the western suburbs of Brisbane, there is a desperate need for an integrated and coordinated road and public transport plan funded collaboratively by all levels of government. Since being elected at the 31 January 2015 state election, I have been consistently advocating and fighting for this plan. Appropriately considered and designed engineering solutions with respect to bridge and rail access can be an important part of regional transport infrastructure planning to ease traffic congestion. However, importantly, this planning requires good community consultation on locality and functionality to avoid unintended consequences and to deliver the desired outcome. Despite raising this issue in the Queensland parliament on numerous occasions and asking questions about various issues in correspondence to the relevant ministers and departments, in this budget Labor has still failed to act.

At the last state election Queensland Labor, preferenced by the Greens, promised to progress an integrated road and public transport plan for the western suburbs, including my electorate of Moggill, but Labor has failed to do so and Labor has failed to act. The unprecedented motion that was passed last night in the Queensland parliament condemning cuts to road funding by the Palaszczuk government proves that Labor has no plans to deliver. Owing to their consistent mismanagement in government, Labor has failed to progress such road and transport infrastructure. It must be remembered that Labor has been in power in Queensland for 24 of the past 28 years.

Unfortunately, this Labor budget has also seen pork-barrelling—school funding for Labor electorates purely for political purposes. Yet Labor has conveniently ignored the plight of residents in my electorate of Moggill and many residents in the adjacent electorate of Ipswich West. Investing in a new high school for the residents of Mount Crosby, Karana Downs, Lake Manchester, Karalee, Chuwar and Barellan Point is very much needed. Local residents who continue to sign a Queensland parliamentary petition are overwhelmingly calling for this investment to occur. So why will not the Labor Minister for Education, the Hon. Kate Jones MP, act not only for the residents of my electorate but also for the residents of the electorate of Ipswich West? The Labor member for Ipswich West, Jim Madden MP, is right behind the campaign to get an additional high school. I say to the Minister for Education to listen to a member of her own government in relation to the educational infrastructure that is needed in that region. There is also a requirement for a continued financial investment in classrooms

and facilities at Kenmore State High School. Local residents, parents, students and teachers as well as P&C representatives are all in agreement about this. Again, I call on the Labor government to act on evidence and support the residents and families of my electorate.

However, I will give credit where it is due. Following my advocacy and sponsoring of a petition to the Queensland parliament and my ongoing work with the Brisbane West Bike User Group, Chris Cox and Councillor Kate Richards, I am very pleased to see that the minister, the Hon. Mark Bailey MP, has directed the Department of Transport and Main Roads to commence a planning study to look at solutions for cycling infrastructure along the Moggill Road corridor in Kenmore and Chapel Hill but, more broadly, improving access to the Centenary Highway bikeway from Brookfield to Fig Tree Pocket. This is extremely important for safety, given the number of tragedies involving cyclists in my electorate of Moggill. This planning study is a start, but what is then needed is the implementation of practical solutions via both the Brisbane City Council and the state government.

Sustained leadership and a proactive commitment combined with a coordinated strategy is needed to deal with a range of law and order threats. The potential linkages between international organised crime, local crime gangs and other community safety threats via money laundering, illicit drug trafficking and other crime related activity cannot be underestimated. Crime is rapidly increasing across Queensland. The 2017 Labor budget reveals that Labor has underspent on critical police resources. Only the LNP can be relied upon to ensure community safety. We know that Labor is soft on crime and soft on law and order generally. Our police should be supported by being provided with the equipment and resources they need. Our police and emergency services workers should be supported by practical action, not the simple hollow rhetoric of the Palaszczuk Labor government's failed policies.

Fortunately, the LNP has a number of policies that will deliver economic, social and other benefits to all Queenslanders, including my local constituents. The LNP will make Brisbane an even greater and more attractive investment opportunity and enhanced tourist destination by delivering the Brisbane entertainment and educational precinct. Queensland desperately needs innovation via private sector-led proposals. This purpose-built entertainment and educational hub, located in Brisbane's CBD, would include a new university campus, a 17,000-seat arena, film and production studios, new commercial facilities and residential apartments, 12 hectares of new public space as well as additional educational and health services. The LNP will make market-led proposals a reality. This estimated \$2 billion project would deliver up to 7,750 jobs during construction.

The LNP is also committed to building the roads, bridges and dams that Queensland needs. Having worked in rural and regional Queensland as a doctor, I know how vital the LNP's \$500 million Royalties for the Regions program is to provide safer roads, deliver more community infrastructure and better services, and ensure resilience when cyclones and floods occur.

By committing to a 20 per cent red-tape-reduction target over six years, the LNP is listening to Queensland businesses and helping them to be more focused on employing Queenslanders, including in my electorate of Moggill, rather than being tied up in bureaucratic red tape. My LNP colleagues and I want businesses to spend less time complying with burdensome paperwork and, in doing so, allow them more time to focus on creating jobs so as to employ more Queenslanders.

The LNP Get Queensland Working plan will create up to 20,000 jobs for young Queenslanders, promote training and apprenticeships, and encourage businesses to train and retain young Queenslanders. The LNP will promote Queensland's key tourism destinations through the increased use of social and digital media. We will do this through a \$3 million capital infrastructure program provided over three years to roll out 500 new wi-fi hotspots to key tourism destinations such as Cairns and many other communities right across Queensland.

The LNP has always been committed to the Great Barrier Reef. In government, the LNP commenced a multimillion-dollar annual investment in reef water quality initiatives. We remain committed to implementing the recommendations of the Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce. With the allocation of additional funding by the state government to the Great Barrier Reef comes the mandatory responsibility to measure and report on translational outcomes. The additional \$175 million over five years to deliver improvements to water quality in the Great Barrier Reef catchment areas needs a transparent measurement of outcomes. The LNP will work with the Commonwealth government to further protect this unique and very important ecosystem for future generations, including discharging our jurisdictional obligations under the Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan.

Unlike the Palaszczuk Labor government, the LNP will not demonise our agricultural, resource and mining sectors. The LNP will balance commerce with protecting and conserving areas of unique and high biodiversity value. The LNP will work collaboratively and constructively to achieve this outcome on behalf of all Queenslanders.

I want to touch on a couple of other areas in the state budget that are either directly or indirectly related to my shadow ministerial portfolio. The LNP has already announced its commitment to a number of great balanced policies for the environment, such as its commitment to phase out single-use plastic bags and collaboratively achieve national consistency on this as well as our commitment to introduce a container deposit scheme for Queensland, which will cut pollution, improve our environment and create hundreds of jobs in Queensland's recycling sector. The Boomerang Alliance, via its media release issued yesterday, once again congratulated the LNP opposition for taking the initiative to publicly back these initiatives. I note that, after nearly 2½ years in government, Labor has finally allocated a mere \$2.5 million to implementing a CDS and plastic bag ban. This financial allocation seems low and it is still 12 months off a go-live date of 1 July 2018.

There is no doubt that plastics and related debris have significant impacts on our marine life and that a comprehensive strategy needs to be implemented to reduce the harms of such products. Our sea turtles, which have survived and evolved for over 120 million years, are particularly vulnerable to the harms of such plastics. Recently, I visited the Moreton Bay Research Station, which is a terrific research and educational facility that has a focus on marine studies, environmental sustainability and mine rehabilitation. I certainly thank station manager, Kevin Townsend, and Dr Clint Chapman for their assistance in facilitating this visit.

There is no doubt that government at both the state and Commonwealth levels can be an important enabler of education and research that can benefit all Queenslanders. I note in the budget the additional funding of \$40 million over two years to revitalise our national parks, assist with their management, and enhance nature opportunities. Given the failure of the Beattie-Bligh years, this funding is overdue. We can only hope that the inefficient and non-productive nature of this Labor administration does not result in a failure to produce an on-the-ground improvement to our national parks.

The LNP will deliver a common-sense, proactive crocodile management plan which focuses on public safety whilst also ensuring the long-term sustainability of crocodile populations. Allowing and legalising crocodile egg harvesting has the capacity to create jobs and facilitate the establishment and further consolidation of an independent, viable industry here in Queensland.

Finally, the LNP supports renewable energy, but not when it forces up the price of power bills or needs huge subsidies to compete with other cheaper and more reliable methods of power generation. Implementing climate change mitigation strategies, including reducing carbon emissions, is important, but it should not be done, as Labor does, via poorly designed policy that will punish and penalise both average and vulnerable Queenslanders. Unlike Labor, the LNP will create real jobs, better manage Queensland's finances, build stronger families, create safer livable communities, build the roads, bridges and dams Queensland needs as well as deliver better government, not more government. The LNP will do this by focusing on our tourism, agriculture, resource and mining, building and construction sectors, as well as enhancing Queensland's education, information technology, science and knowledge based industries. Together let us build a better Queensland and, in doing so, leave the dark economic days of the Palaszczuk Labor government behind.

The Palaszczuk Labor government has delivered a rail fail to South-East Queensland, Labor has delivered a return of ambulance ramping and the Palaszczuk Labor government has allowed the Child Safety department to fall into crisis and chaos just like it did under the failed Beattie Labor government years. The Palaszczuk Labor government has failed on openness and transparency and this is evidenced by its introduction of compulsory preferential voting with only 18 minutes notice and Labor's intention to release only a redacted and diluted version of its Cross River Rail business case. So much for openness and transparency by the Palaszczuk Labor government.

In my closing remarks I want to comment briefly on homelessness and public housing. In Queensland we have a population of over 4.5 million people with approximately 20,000 experiencing homelessness. The reasons for homelessness are varied and complex. I find it offensive when some Labor members assert that the LNP does not care about the vulnerable and those who are homeless. Despite Labor's state budget announcement, it is very disappointing that the Labor Minister for Housing and Public Works cancelled the Logan Renewal Initiative that would have seen 2,600 community houses built and maintained by the private sector but staying in public hands. The federal Liberal National Party government's allocation of \$117 million in funding for homelessness services to 2018 via the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness is a strong commitment to the vulnerable.

In conclusion, the legacy of Labor is always mismanagement, broken promises and economic vandalism. The choice at the next election is clear: only the Liberal National Party will build a better Queensland by tackling cost-of-living pressures, including rising family car registration, rising power costs, rising water and electricity costs and getting the finances of our great state of Queensland back on track. Together let us build a better Moggill and a better Queensland.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (9.23 pm): Wasn't that an interesting contribution from the member for Moggill? I will have to agree with my colleague, the member for Stretton, that the member is, indeed, Dr No. What a questionable diagnosis he has delivered tonight in the House. I am proud to rise today to speak in support of the Appropriation Bill delivered by the honourable Treasurer, Curtis Pitt MP. I congratulate the Treasurer, the Premier and all the ministers for this impressive budget. What a great budget it is for Queensland and for my electorate. This great Labor budget is responding to the needs of Queenslanders, setting out a clear economic plan, creating jobs, attracting investment and building infrastructure—growing our economy. It responds to the needs of all Queenslanders: the young, the elderly, the unemployed, the disadvantaged, business and industry.

The member for Moggill obviously has a very short memory because under the Nicholls-Newman government baysiders suffered terribly. We were punished. We lost many of our front-line services so important to a community: Child Safety office closed; Department of Housing closed; Bayside Tenancy Advice office—which was tenancy advice for caravan park owners—closed; and a reduced number of hours for a doctor at the primary care clinic. Perhaps the most hurtful was the closing of the Moreton Bay Nursing Care Unit. This was a functional, accredited aged care facility. I have spoken many times about it in this place. Eighty-five residents lost their home and it was all down to the Newman-Nicholls government, member for Moggill. It was an attack on the most vulnerable in our community. Sadly, these attacks are upon the most marginal: the elderly, families, young people, unemployed and renters.

Baysiders sent a strong message in 2015. We made it clear that we would not stand for the disgraceful axing of our local services and the total lack of regard for our community. The great news for baysiders is that the Palaszczuk Labor government is delivering for Queensland. It is committed to creating jobs, building important infrastructure and growing the economy. This budget delivers just that. Gundu Pa, our new community health centre, will see the return of a 24-hour primary care clinic, including increased and improved services. This \$13 million investment in health services in the bayside is scheduled to open later this year. Thank you to the Palaszczuk government. This budget delivers funding for our new Wynnum Ambulance Station that will be co-located at Gundu Pa. This will meet the growing needs of our community, providing a centralised, modern public health precinct. Minister for Health, thank you for your commitment to providing outstanding health and paramedic options for all Queenslanders.

I cannot miss the opportunity to acknowledge the Minister for Housing and Public Works who knows how important it is to support communities. Thank you for supporting Bayside Housing Services which is a return of weekly outreach services for the Department of Housing in my community. BABI, Mangrove Housing, QSTARS tenancy advice service, Wynnum Community Hub and Second Bite are just a few of our important bayside organisations supporting local people, people who were ignored and disregarded under the Newman-Nicholls government. These organisations look out for some of the most marginalised people in our community. I thank them for the outstanding work that they do each and every day in our community.

Today is World Elder Abuse Day and it is fitting that I talk about the statewide boost that this budget delivers, with funding of a record \$12 million to ensure that our communities are age friendly, providing important funding to expand elder abuse prevention and senior legal services. Many of our local young people have really benefited in the last two years from Skilling Queenslanders for Work programs. In fact, last night was BABI's graduation. I really love going along to these graduations. It is great, and often hard, to hear the stories of these young people, their journeys, their highs and lows, but most particularly their successes. Whether it is returning to school, training or finding employment, Get Set for Work has helped so many people in the bayside and across Queensland. Parents, grandparents and carers are so proud seeing their young people finding their way. I am so very proud to be part of the Palaszczuk Labor government that has reinstated Skilling Queenslanders for Work. Thanks to the Minister for Training and Skills for this impressive program which has helped more than 18,000 disadvantaged Queenslanders, with 8,182 now employed, 2,119 gone on to further education and training and 321 who have returned to school. This is good Labor policy, offering a hand of support when needed and, importantly, returning a program with a proven successful track record.

Further, a commitment of \$27.5 million for employers who hire a long-term unemployed or young unemployed jobseeker has been allocated in this budget. This will see eligible employers receiving up to \$15,000 for a long-term unemployed person or \$20,000 for a young jobseeker between 15 and 24. This is great news for jobseekers and employers.

Unlike the opposition, we have no plans for a coal-fired power station in North Queensland. Rather, the Powering Queensland Plan is a road map to drive down energy costs, leading the transition to a low-carbon economy, delivering jobs and investment. That is the Palaszczuk government's commitment to renewable energy: 50 per cent renewables by 2030 and transitioning to a low-carbon economy, reducing the cost of living by delivering subsidies and support across the energy and water supply, securing reliable and cost-effective concessions to eligible households.

Commuters already benefit from the great cost-of-living savings initiative Fairer Fares and baysiders are set to benefit from the wonderful Cross River Rail. Thank you very much to the Deputy Premier and the Palaszczuk government, because we are fully funding this priority infrastructure project. This project will reduce travel time into the city for baysiders by up to 14 minutes. Importantly, it will take 18,500 cars off the road, reducing congestion and pollution. This traffic-busting project will support 1,500 construction jobs each year during construction. This is an economy and city-shaping project and we baysiders are set to benefit from the jobs during construction, reduced travel time and access to a modern, active transport system. Due to the Palaszczuk government's vision and commitment, construction will start this year. This really is a budget that delivers in terms of cost-of-living relief, a renewable energy future, creating jobs, strengthening our economy and delivering infrastructure. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I just give a final warning. The member for Lytton had some difficulty being heard at the end. I know it is a long night, it is 9.30, but we all should be respectful of each other's contribution. We all will be on our feet at some point.

Mr LAST (Burdekin—LNP) (9.31 pm): I rise to deliver my response to the budget delivered this week. In his media release on Tuesday afternoon the minister said that the 2017-18 budget encourages economic development in rural and regional Queensland, yet this budget has cut overall funding to the Department of Agriculture. At a time when the agricultural sector is injecting more revenue into this state than ever before, this government cuts funding to the tune of \$14 million. It is patently obvious that the minister has not listened to our farmers, because if he had there would be money to address the spiralling electricity costs for the agricultural sector and money for dams such as Rookwood Weir, because in rural and regional Queensland water means money and a vision for our agricultural sector. Instead, we saw a cut to the agriculture budget and a cut to Labor's own Building Our Region Fund with no new money allocated. The President of AgForce described the budget as underwhelming, saying—

While there are billions of dollars set aside for road and rail projects in south-east Queensland, there appears to be no major new funding for regional and rural transport initiatives that would make it safer, easier and cheaper to get farm goods to market.

This view is not restricted to AgForce though, because as Stuart Armitage from QFF said—

The state budget has failed to properly fund and support a vision that rightfully places Queensland agriculture as a major contributor and employer in the state. It is disappointing that the reliable workhorse of rural and regional Queensland appears to be overlooked in the government's vision for the state.

It gets worse, because Growcon, canegrowers and the nursery and garden industry of Queensland also condemned this budget. That should ring alarm bells for this minister, because the government has failed to deliver for the bush. The government has failed to deliver that shot of confidence the agricultural sector needs. Is it any wonder that they shake their heads in dismay?

Our farmers are out there day in and day out dealing with those spiralling water and electricity charges, drought, wild dogs, sugarcane disputes, dodgy roads—you name it—and what thanks do they get? Absolutely nothing. This is confirmation that agriculture runs a distant last when it comes to the priorities of this do-nothing government. Once again, the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors are the poor cousin. Is that not a reflection on this minister who has sat back and watched as the axe was taken to this crucial portfolio? I might add that it is a portfolio which contributes \$19.95 billion to the Queensland economy and which employs 57,000 people. One has to feel sorry for the forestry industry, because it does not rate even a mention in the budget. I wonder what all those forestry workers and associated businesses think today about the fact that they did not rate a mention by a government that does little more than pay lip-service to the agricultural sector?

Perhaps the most frightening figure in the agricultural budget is the \$1.2 million allocated next financial year as part of the rural economic development package. To put this into context, as part of his responsibilities the minister is the Minister for Rural and Economic Development. The best he could

muster up in this budget is \$5.2 million over three years to be shared among growing Queensland's food exports, establishing a rural economic economy centre of excellence and the continuation of the department's one-stop service. Is it any wonder our industry bodies are unforgiving in their condemnation of this budget, not to mention our rural communities who rely on the agricultural sector for jobs and business?

In delivering his budget speech, the Treasurer said when talking about the reef that it remains under pressure from agricultural run-off, climate change, coastal development and illegal fishing but then in the next breath said the importance of Queensland's agricultural sector to the economy cannot be overstated. In one breath he is sinking the boot, blaming agricultural practices for climate change and damage to the reef, and then in the next breath he tries to tell us that the agricultural sector's contribution to the economy is crucial. If it is so crucial and important to the economy, why is the government not stumping up the funds in the budget to support and develop an industry that contributes so much to this state?

For our western graziers in the Warrego and Gregory electorates, this budget is a disaster. Funding for cluster fencing has dwindled to a paltry \$1 million, and that will have a major impact on the control of wild dogs in the western areas of the state. Our sheep and wool producers will be devastated by this news which now threatens to derail the process of wild dog eradication and the rebuilding of the sheep and goat herds in those areas. This decision will seriously undermine confidence in these western communities, threatening jobs and further impacting on those businesses that supply fencing and related products to graziers and contractors. There is unequivocal evidence to support the benefits of cluster fencing to the western areas of our state, and this cut is a major setback for those particular areas. It has given our sheep and wool growers optimism for the first time in many years and led to the revitalisation of the sheep and the wool industry. To pull the rug out from beneath the feet of these farmers through a massive reduction in cluster fence funding is appalling.

I note that the government is establishing a rural economies centre of excellence, and I certainly hope this is not a rebranding of the doomed office of rural affairs that we saw in last year's budget. Where will this centre of excellence be established and what will it actually do? Let us hope it is not another bureaucracy based in Brisbane.

I am particularly concerned that there is no line item in the budget for drought relief. Instead, one has to go to the fineprint to ascertain that this government will hold \$20 million centrally across no fewer than three departments. We talk about bureaucracy and red tape. If ever there was a recipe for disaster, one need look no further than a scheme which spreads its funding across three government departments with the Department of Agriculture holding no funds. That is right; the very department that should be holding the funds has no financial responsibility for the program, instead relying on that magical big bucket of money held centrally.

The budget papers refer to further funding being found in the revenue measures and yet a perusal of the Department of Natural Resources and Mines finds no funding allocated to drought relief arrangements, so one can only wonder how this scheme will be administered. I am bitterly disappointed that the funding of \$2 million over the next two years for the management of yellow crazy ants in and adjacent to the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area comes at the exclusion of areas such as Townsville. I have a significant yellow crazy ant infestation at Nome, 20 kilometres south of Townsville, of which the minister is well aware and yet not one red cent is allocated to address the problem. It seems pointless to me to allocate funds for the eradication of yellow crazy ants in one part of the state to the exclusion of other areas. The area around Nome has been mapped, and residents and businesses including the world renowned Billabong Sanctuary are ready to commence baiting and treatment.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr LAST: That is the one. The Treasurer says the government will invest \$30 million over three years from 2017-18 towards the implementation of Queensland's fisheries management reforms. In his media release the minister said that additional funding of \$20.9 million over three years would support the sustainable fishing strategy. Which figure is correct? We are talking about \$9 million here and I think the minister needs to stand up in this place and explain the disparity in figures. The question that also needs to be asked is what programs or services within the department have been cut to provide the \$9 million which has been reprioritised to fund this initiative? It is like a game of chess, except in this case the minister is playing with taxpayers' money.

I note the minister has rolled out his fishing policy in the past few days, which has sounded alarm bells through both the recreational and commercial fishing industries. The minister's attempts to set up an advisory panel without representation from people in the industry certainly raises a red flag. I hope

the minister takes note of action 8.1 in his strategy to amend legislation to clarify the roles of the minister and the fisheries department in decision-making because he has proved that independent, objective science need play no role in some of his decisions.

Agriculture is one of the pillars of the state's economy and I am proud to say that the LNP is 100 per cent behind our farmers and the agricultural sector and it is certainly my vision to develop a global agribusiness plan that will drive continued growth of our primary industries sector and support jobs growth in rural and regional areas. We need to unlock new market and growth opportunities for our agricultural products across the supply chain and address issues such as workforce and skills development, education and research and development.

This budget has failed to deliver on regional and rural transport initiatives that are imperative in getting our produce to market. Our rural roads in particular are in a sorry state of disrepair and producers are sick and tired of driving on unsealed roads that are poorly maintained and untrafficable for many months of the year. This government will spend billions of dollars on the Cross River Rail project whilst our hardworking truckies are freighting millions of dollars of produce every week over unsealed roads across this state. I want to acknowledge the \$3.4 million over four years for the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority to undertake a rural debt survey, operate a farm debt reconstruction office and develop a research function as this aligns very closely with the LNP's position on the recently passed bill.

Biosecurity funding falls well short of the mark. In particular, I am concerned at the lack of funding for weeds, such as prickly acacia which is decimating a large part of rural Queensland. I also want to mention the impact that white spot disease has had not only on our prawn farmers but also on commercial fishermen and crabbers in the Logan River and Moreton Bay area. I know the families and the commercial operators in that area are in desperate need of financial support. I want to acknowledge the work of my colleague the member for Redlands who has taken up the fight on their behalf. It is also disappointing that the intergenerational farm transfer duty exemption has not been extended to family trusts and companies which has been identified by industry bodies such as AgForce as a major issue.

The LNP is committed to building the dams, bridges and roads that Queensland needs. We will create jobs and diversify the economy by focusing on priority areas such as agriculture and build the appropriate frameworks to maintain the profitability, productivity and innovation that will underpin the competitiveness of the agricultural sector. The Treasurer has clearly shown in this budget that he is incapable of delivering a sustainable, long-term plan and an ability to create jobs in the agricultural sector.

I will turn to my electorate of Burdekin which has effectively doubled in size as a consequence of the recent electoral boundary changes. The Burdekin electorate will now take in most of the current Isaac Regional Council area. I look forward to working with the residents and businesses in this new area of my electorate which now becomes the economic powerhouse for the state of Queensland.

The budget does little to inspire any confidence in terms of job creation and infrastructure projects throughout my electorate. Many of the projects identified in the budget documents, such as the Bowen Hospital upgrade, a new police station and the Sandy Gully bridge upgrade, are either underway or nearing completion. There are no new projects. The refurbishment of the Collinsville pipeline and Bowen Broken Water Supply Scheme, whilst welcomed, are hardly game-changers in terms of job creation.

Given that Bowen and Collinsville, and to a lesser extent communities in the Isaac Regional Council area, were impacted by Cyclone Debbie, I certainly hope our fair share of the \$63.4 million for recovery and reconstruction projects flows through to these communities. I know my colleague the member for Whitsunday will talk about the impact that that cyclone had on the communities in his area and the need for development and support for those residents and businesses that were severely impacted.

I have already spoken with the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines about the need for urgent work on the Don River at Bowen to prevent a recurrence of the erosion of valuable farmland caused when the Don River overflowed during the recent cyclone event. There is also the issue of the marina at Bowen and damage to roads and infrastructure throughout the Whitsunday and Isaac regional council areas.

I welcome the funding commitment for the air conditioning of the Ayr State High School, the Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger program at Home Hill and the Mount Inkerman nature tourism development. The issue of water for Townsville has been well documented. The impending release of the water task force report should provide a clear direction going forward of the infrastructure required to ensure Townsville never again faces a water crisis to the extent currently being experienced.

However, the fixation by this government on a hydro-electric project at the Burdekin Falls Dam is perplexing given previous studies have determined that this scheme is not viable at that location without substantially raising the height of the dam wall. There is no question that North Queensland needs cheap, reliable, base load power. The 50 per cent renewable energy target set by this government is doing nothing but driving prices up.

I also want to acknowledge the funding made available for the construction of the Moranbah Youth and Community Centre, which will be delivered in partnership with BHP Billiton Mitsubishi coal operations and the relocation of the Clermont Moncler Monash Lodge to the Clermont Hospital. These are important projects for those communities that deliver much needed services in the respective communities.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! Member just a moment, please. Members, there is an increasing volume of conversation in the chamber. Could I ask members who are standing in the aisle ways and gangways to please resume their seats so that we can—

Opposition members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Every member has the right to be heard. I ask that we show respect to the member for Burdekin.

Mr LAST: Once again I see no funds for the Stuart Drive upgrade in Townsville, the motor sport precinct at Calcium, an all-tide VMR boat-launching facility in the Burdekin, dredging of an all-tide access channel at Molongle Creek or the Collinsville rejuvenation project. These are all projects that will create real jobs and kickstart the economy in the region.

Increasingly, we are seeing hotel, motels and small businesses in these towns closing. For towns such as Glenden it has reached a critical juncture. If we do not start supporting these communities they will become ghost towns. That means stimulating the engaging of local contractors in government projects and providing the necessary funding and support to kickstart these projects.

There is a common message in all the rural towns that I visit. That message is that if we do not arrest the decline in population, if we do not stop the families from packing up and leaving these communities we will not have anyone living west of the Great Dividing Range. It might not sound like much, but the addition of a few families can often make the difference between a school staying open, a police station remaining as a two- or three-officer station or the local hospital retaining staff. It might be good in theory to service our smaller rural towns from larger regional centres, but it does nothing to support our local businesses and it does nothing for the long-term future of these communities.

I have been working with the Bowen Collinsville Enterprise on the construction of a food-processing plant at Bowen—a project that has the potential to deliver hundreds of jobs to this community. It is projects like this that are needed across rural and regional Queensland. We need vision. We need a government that can look outside the square. Unfortunately those opposite are letting Queenslanders down.

Youth unemployment in the outback is sitting at 48 per cent. That is right, one in two youths in our outback communities is out of work. If this government thinks this budget is going to solve that problem they are delusional.

Business owners are looking to government to deliver the big ticket items—the major projects which will drive investment and boost consumer confidence. Delivering a budget with a forecast debt of \$81.1 billion and an unemployment rate across the state above six per cent does nothing to inspire confidence. Is it any wonder Queenslanders are bitterly disappointed with this budget?

The people who live in our rural and regional communities deserve better. They deserve the same level of service as those people who live in the city. They need to know that they will not be forgotten. I have the utmost respect and admiration for all those people who live in our rural and regional centres. I can assure each and every one of them that the LNP will continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with them in the fight to ensure that they get their fair share of the budget pie.

I meet with locals in my communities every day. I hear their stories and I share their pain. It is the reason I go to work every day. I want to make a difference. I want to build a better Queensland to provide the jobs, the facilities, the services, the development, but, more importantly, the opportunities for those people to be able to live and find employment in our rural communities. For that reason, the LNP is the only option for our rural and regional Queenslanders in this state. They need to know that we will stand shoulder to shoulder with them to ensure that happens.

 **Mr WHITING** (Murrumba—ALP) (9.49 pm): I rise in support of this budget, the third Labor budget in a row that delivers a surplus, the third Labor budget in a row that delivers jobs and services to Queenslanders and the third Palaszczuk government budget that embodies strong Labor values. This budget meets all of those values shared by so many Queenslanders. For example, Labor has always wanted to make sure that working Queenslanders have a roof over their head. This budget delivers that. I am talking about the \$1.8 billion investment in the Queensland Housing Strategy which will deliver 5,000 new homes over 10 years. We will build 10 times the number of houses that the LNP did in their term of government. In Moreton Bay, \$97 million will be invested in 330 new homes and in the revitalisation of existing housing stock. That means hundreds of local families will get the security of a home of their own. That is what they can look forward to.

We also believe that working class kids deserve a great education. That is why I welcome the decision that we are planning for an extra high school in the Murrumba electorate. North Lakes State College will be the third largest school in Queensland. It has got there after only about 10 years or so! The P-6 schools that we have—Mango Hill and Bounty Boulevard—will be the biggest and second biggest primary schools in the state. These are all just five minutes from each other. We are very glad to deliver the planning for that new high school. Not only that, we are delivering \$250,000 each to Moreton Downs State School, Hercules Road State School and Deception Bay North State School. That is on top of the \$15 million multistorey block we are delivering for North Lakes State College, a new school hall at Bounty Boulevard State School and the completion of two new blocks at Mango Hill State School. That is only part of what we have achieved in delivering a great education for our young people.

Since we were elected in March 2015 there have been an extra 3,500 new teachers and teacher aides teaching our kids, and we have committed to employ 875 extra teachers above growth for Queensland children as well. Not only that; we have had the very welcome announcement today that there will be more teacher aide hours for prep classes throughout Queensland. Each prep class gets 25 hours a week of teacher aide assistance. I have a daughter, Rebecca. She will be starting prep next year. I look forward to going home and telling my wife that our daughter will be the beneficiary once again of the Labor government's policies and initiatives on education.

One of the things we believe in—and we have heard it many times tonight—is that everyone deserves the dignity of having the security of a job. That has been the primary focus of the budget. I thank the Treasurer, the Premier and the ministers for the \$27.5 million extension of the Back to Work program to the outer urban areas of Brisbane. That means that when a young person in Deception Bay gets a job \$20,000 goes to their employer and when a long-term unemployed person gets a job \$15,000 goes to their employer. That is on top of the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. I thank the Minister for Training and Skills for all the great work she has done in that area. This has delivered jobs and training to 354 young people in the Deception Bay area. That is 354 people whose lives have been changed by this program. That is 354 people who would have been abandoned under the LNP because they cancelled this very program in 2015.

We do have a job creation record that the LNP can never match. Let me state it again: 59,200 Queenslanders have found jobs since we were elected. That, as we have heard from the Minister for Health, is over double the number of jobs created under the term of the previous LNP government. I saw a tweet from the Treasurer before. The latest ABS statistics are saying 69,300 jobs have been created since the election in 2015. They are the latest figures. This budget is going to support 40,000 jobs for Queenslanders. That is a great outcome. It goes to show that they may talk it down but they can never match our record on job creation.

The following are Labor and Queensland values that we see reflected in this budget: if you get ill, do not worry—we will be there to help you and you will be looked after; and the government will help you keep your hard-earned wages in your pocket. These are the values and aspirations of Queenslanders. They are at the heart of what we do as Labor. They are at the core of this budget. For the LNP to say we are doing this project or that initiative to preserve the career of individual members of parliament reveals how they regard politics. I think it reveals their true values. It says more about them than it says about us.

Before I finish I want to counter some spurious arguments we have heard from the LNP today. On the issue of electricity, let me state it again, as the Minister for Energy is here: under Labor, household electricity bill rises have shrunk. They have gone up 1.9 per cent on average per year compared to—and members have heard this before—the 43 per cent that we saw over the term of the Newman-Nicholls government.

On the issue of car registration, if they had won in 2015, they would have introduced a 3.5 per cent car registration increase from 1 July 2015. They had factored it into their midyear review released on 18 December 2014. Under the LNP government, the forward estimates across all years reflected a 3.5 per cent increase in fees and charges from July 2015. I think we need to keep pointing this out. They planned a 3.5 per cent increase in car registration. Their policy on car registration that they have announced today indicates a cut—another LNP cut—in road projects across Queensland.

Mr Pitt: They're cutters.

Mr WHITING: They are cutters. That is all they know to do. If there was a freeze from 2015, that would have cost the state over \$53 million in 2016-17 and more than \$563 million over the forward estimates. What they are proposing represents about a half a billion dollar cut from the road construction budget. That is not something you will hear them telling the people of Queensland. They insist on more infrastructure but they want to keep cutting the funds for it.

The Leader of the Opposition also said he wants to get rid of red tape. Let me be clear to the people of Murrumba and Bancroft as to what this means. It means getting rid of environmental protections. It means getting rid of Queenslanders' rights to object to mining projects. Yet this is a team that cannot even say yes to getting rid of the red tape on trading hours. They have gone to water on the easiest of tests on red tape.

This mantra of a 'do-nothing government' will never be believed by the people who lived under the Newman-Nicholls regime. Ask the people of Deception Bay and North Lakes what happened in the last term. The LNP did nothing. Nothing happened. The only project they promised in Deception Bay was a Deception Bay bus transfer station—a \$5.8 million project. They promised it in their first budget, yet they could not deliver it by the end of their term. All that was there when I became an MP was two blue pop-up pergolas. We finished it for them and we saved \$800,000. Not only that; they cut the Deception Bay Road overpass from the QTRIP program, which has come back in today. It was a \$150 million project. We have committed \$30 million to that as well. That is their record—the 'did-nothing' Newman-Nicholls government.

Compare that to what is happening in Deception Bay now. There is \$6 million to be spent on Deception Bay Road compared to \$369,000 that they spent in their term. The people know what they see. The LNP did nothing in my area. They know that only Labor delivers infrastructure to our local communities. All the LNP ever delivers is cuts. I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*. I confirm that I have cleared it with you, Madam Deputy Speaker, and sent it to *Hansard* and I have a hard copy.

Leave granted.

Here is a list of more funding initiatives from the 2017 State Budget that benefits local residents in the electorate of Murrumba.

\$250,000 to refurbish Block 4 at Deception Bay North State School.

\$250,000 to refurbish Blocks N and L at Hercules Road State School.

\$250,000 to refurbish the Special Education Unit at Moreton Downs State School.

\$3 million in 2017-18 to complete resurfacing of Anzac Avenue.

\$1.444 million in 2017-18 to carry out network construction works at the Deception Bay substation.

\$99,000 in 2017-18 to replace the communications cable between South Pine and Hayes Inlet Substations to improve network performance.

\$72,281 as part of a \$722,911 commitment to install lighting and construct a clubhouse, storage facilities, car park and path ways at North Lakes.

\$10 million in 2017-18 to continue the upgrade of the Bruce Highway Boundary Road Interchange at a total cost of \$100.4 million.

\$9,622,600 of \$14 million to commence construction of additional classrooms at North Lakes State College.

\$4,966,714 of \$7 million to construct additional classrooms at Mango Hill State School.

\$4,044,900 of \$5 million to construct a multi-purpose hall at Bounty Boulevard State School.

\$284,090 of \$300,000 to refurbish the Home Economics Area at Deception Bay State High School.

\$1,683,766 as part of a \$6,735,065 commitment over four years to provide family support services to work with vulnerable families to help improve parenting skills and give parents the support they need to prevent problems from escalating to crisis point.

\$244,566 as part of the \$978,265 commitment over four years to provide support to vulnerable individuals and assist them to get their lives back on track.

\$115,376 as part of a \$461,502 commitment over four years to provide programs to increase the ability for individuals and community groups to participate positively in their community.

\$289,073 as part of a \$1,156,291 commitment over four years to provide support for young people at risk of disconnection, focusing service delivery efforts on building their connections to their family and the community.

\$12,940,287 to assist people with a disability and their family to access the support and services they need as they move through the different stages of their life.

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (9.58 pm): I rise tonight in response to the Palaszczuk government's third budget. At the end of the Treasurer's budget speech I unwrapped the budget pack plastic wrap and was not holding out much hope for many budget items in my wonderful electorate of Chatsworth. Instead, I eagerly turned to page 7 of Budget Paper No. 2 and scanned the overview of table 2, 'General Government Sector—key fiscal aggregates'—and there it was: the real state of play. Over the forward estimates the total debt for 2020-21 is projected to be in excess of \$81 billion. Yet again, in the finest of Labor traditions, this is another budget of higher debt and larger deficits. Over the next four years debt is going to balloon by \$9 billion up to \$81 billion. Tellingly, that represents \$15,800 of debt for every man, woman and child in Queensland. Annual debt interest costs will remain around \$3.6 billion or almost \$10 million a day. This do-nothing Labor government is forecasting two wafer-thin operating surpluses in 2017 and in 2018-19, according to Budget Paper No. 2, table 2, but these are based on optimistic revenue assumptions actually hitting their mark.

The budget also forecasts fiscal deficits as far as the eye can see. Fiscal deficits over the next four years will total \$11.6 billion. Worryingly, expenses have blown out by 7.2 per cent in 2016-17 or \$3.6 billion under Labor—way above previous forecasts and more than four times the inflation rate. As I have always said, every budget needs a contextual framework. Since being elected 2½ years ago, this inept, do-nothing Labor government has stated yet again that it is all about jobs, jobs and jobs.

Both the Premier and the Treasurer this year have used the slogan and spin of 'a jobs bonanza'. There is no argument that in itself this is a noble goal and one of the key pathways for achieving this is through the budget document. Last year the word 'job' came up approximately 45 times in Treasurer Pitt's budget speech. Labor's so-called jobs bonanza budget will yet again have little impact on overall unemployment. It is pure spin with no tangible substance. According to the continuous economic tyros opposite, in their own Budget Paper No. 2 the unemployment rate is expected to remain at or above six per cent.

Let us again try out the old pub test here for the third budget in a row. If I offer you a financial plan based on creating a jobs bonanza and a couple of years down the track the unemployment rate has not moved using your own projections and input assumptions, would you buy this budget as a true jobs bonanza blueprint? Like last year's failed budget attempt, it is absolute smoke and mirrors by the junior tyro Treasurer, who, after three attempts at handing down a budget capable of being sold politically, is completely and utterly out of his depth. I am sure the member for Woodridge is measuring up the curtains in the current Treasurer's office for the pending job promotion. The notion of focusing on jobs is indeed noble, but how is this going to be achieved within the rest of the government's own supporting statements?

The budget shows no dint in the unemployment figures over the forward estimates. As I stated last year, it merely reinforces the notion that this government was unprepared and never fully expected to win the last election. The Treasurer has had 2½ years to learn the fundamental accounting equation and is yet to come to grips with it.

The seeds of our current financial and economic malaise were planted within days of this do-nothing government coming to power 2½ years ago. I reiterate that, despite what past titular heads and party elders profess, there was simply no detailed plan—none. Despite the resources of Treasury around him, the Treasurer's lack of financial and economic nous knows no bounds. I put it to members of this House who have been around many years: have you ever seen such a nonevent as this budget? 'Mr Risky' is indeed now 'Mr Invisible'. Yet again with remedial undergraduate precepts, has the Treasurer ever heard of funding contingent liabilities? Does this government truly understand how to re-work capital on a balance sheet? Does the notion of opportunity costs ring a bell, or how about risk spread using the 10-year bond rate as a starting measure?

This budget is so lightweight and lacking in long-term vision and true reform that it merely delays the inevitable intergenerational fiscal pain. I want to emphasise a key concept for the benefit of the lemming-like members opposite. This is a basic precept that those opposite have failed to fundamentally grasp for the third year in a row. Throwing ever-increasingly large amounts of money into key government areas such as health and education is not in itself a measure of success. It is about the effectiveness of outputs, not just input efficiencies. Simply put, it is what you do with the resources rather than just throwing money at an issue or spin your way out of trouble.

Those of us who come from the real corporate sector understand this notion very well, as funding streams need to be maintained by sound financial management planned over several budget cycles. Here lays the rub. This budget has yet again been used as a political tool to appease, amongst others, union masters and has been conjured up to play well from a retail political perspective. The problem is that the Treasurer has been invisible, and his colleagues know he is not a competent salesperson.

Predictably, the budget accolades being sprouted by key unionists were akin, for the third year in a row, to getting a letter from mum or dad saying how good is their child. Members on the other side of the chamber have been hoodwinked yet again by their own leadership team into thinking that the fiscal principles adopted in this smoke-and-mirrors budget is actually sustainable in the long term. As they will sadly learn, you cannot play catch-up tennis with financial management.

As I have previously stated in this chamber, at some stage you have to pay back the piper. It is another one-off sugar fix from this do-nothing Labor government that lacks vision and a true sense of economic reform in their zeal to chase short-term political populism. This budget fails future generations by avoiding the tough decisions required to be made by this generation. Unfair intergenerational debt will continue yet again under Labor.

Let us again cut to the chase. This budget truly does not hide behind smoke and mirrors to disguise its uncertain economic footing, and not content to rely on economic sleight of hand Labor thinks nothing of casting aside now inconvenient election commitments for the third year in a row. The Treasurer's promise of no tax increases has been shelved as we have seen with the recent announcement on car registration increases. Compare and contrast family car registration with our policy of freezing costs for the next three years.

The biggest job creator, however, appears to be the government itself. Employee expenses continue to grow out of control, with the Palaszczuk government once again missing its previous forecast for employee expenses growth as the number of public servants surges again. Total employee costs have blown out by a whopping \$5.6 billion, but despite paying more Queenslanders are getting less with continuing Child Safety crises, a rail fail, crime rates on the rise and the return of ambulance ramping.

It is not just these key areas where Queenslanders are being let down. Crime increased last year across this state by around six per cent. Is it any wonder with the CCC budget going backwards? The LNP introduced tougher laws, cracking down on organised crime with an increase in investment. You cannot do that when you start to cut into budgets. Despite what the Treasurer would have Queenslanders believe, in table 2 of Budget Paper No. 2 the general government sector key fiscal aggregate shows that debt will continue to rise year after year.

There is still a problem here, though. Overall debt, including money owned by state owned businesses, will climb by \$72 billion by the end of Labor's term in 2017-18, which is around the same figure as when they took office. They will have merely come full circle. So much for their energy and their much touted debt repayment strategy—mythbusters taken to a new extreme by the invisible Treasurer.

As members on this side of the chamber know, real growth comes from the private sector. This budget again highlights that Labor does not care about small business. There are no new measures in this budget targeted at small business. There is no tax relief provided for small businesses struggling with costs like payroll tax. There is nothing in this budget to show small business that government is indeed serious about getting out of their way and slashing red tape.

Is it any wonder the CCIQ panned the budget, saying there was nothing in it for small business? Labor's prodigious appetite to spend and spend simply knows no bounds. As I have always said, past behaviour is indeed the best way to predict future actions. It does not seem to matter which Labor Party members come or go; they all share in their DNA an absolute inability to understand what expenditure containment and debt control are really all about.

Labor members always talk big on infrastructure, but how many times does the all-talk no-action Deputy Premier begin another infrastructure update for the House with a 'let me be clear' statement? In 2015-16 Labor failed to deliver \$2 billion, or 20 per cent, of its total infrastructure spend. In 2016-17 Labor failed to spend \$1.7 billion of its capital program. Capital purchases in 2016-17 are now estimated to be \$6.9 billion. The original budget estimate was \$8.3 billion. This is a cut—and I will do the maths for those across the room because they cannot do it—of \$1.4 billion. Seriously, what is their problem? So much for a jobs bonanza. Labor cannot even get the money they have identified for projects out the door. Queenslanders are paying the price for Labor's lack of investment in infrastructure.

While speaking of infrastructure, as a member who resides in the eastern suburbs of Brisbane, I would like to address Cross River Rail. As a former assistant minister for public transport, I acknowledge that this infrastructure project is needed, along with many other infrastructure requirements, but let us look at the real facts. The true cost of the Cross River Rail project is \$14½ billion, with \$5.4 billion for capital costs, that is true, but also \$4½ billion for operating costs and \$4½ billion for auxiliary project costs.

The Palaszczuk Labor government need to be up-front with Queenslanders and release this secret business case. The Premier espouses that her government is open and transparent, so they should release the business case unredacted as it is now. Labor have committed \$2 billion for this project, but where is the other—wait for it—\$11.3 billion coming from? We still do not know. My problem is not the need for this piece of infrastructure but how this do-nothing Labor government—which spruiked before the last election that they could manage the economy all right without these geniuses selling assets, increasing taxes or cutting services—will fund it. How are they going to fund it?

As I have done previously, I do give the government credit for at least one section of the budget, and that may be found in Budget Paper No. 2 on page 127 under section 7.1, 'Federal financial arrangements'. The Productivity Commission inquiry into horizontal fiscal equalisation, HFE, presents an opportunity for Queensland to provide a submission to the federal inquiry in support of the principle that all states should have fiscal capacity to provide similar levels of services and infrastructure. That is noble enough. I have already spoken in this chamber on Commonwealth-state financial relations and competitive federalism in past speeches and I intend to do so again in the future as this issue is critical to the state.

As we all know, all politics is local, so in my wonderful electorate of Chatsworth, the traffic congestion along Old Cleveland Road will again continue and residents can ruminate on this fact as they pay extra for their car registration. I note in Budget Paper No. 3, the Capital Statement, that funding of \$1.7 million is provided for the Belmont Shooting Centre and \$519,000 is provided for the velodrome as part of the Commonwealth Games preparation. I sincerely wish there was more I could say about my local electorate in this budget speech, but sadly there is nothing further contained in the budget.

As part of my budget speech, I would now like to comment on the budget as the shadow minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships and multicultural affairs. Indigenous councils and communities have seen their infrastructure funding drop in this budget. Funding for infrastructure in Indigenous communities has been slashed to pay, probably, the first \$2 billion for their Cross River Rail project. The Indigenous land and infrastructure program has decreased by \$2.6 million, while the Indigenous State Infrastructure Program has been cut by \$2.1 million. Obviously, the Palaszczuk Labor government does not understand just how far this funding goes in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, as the projects funded by these jobs also support and create local jobs. While an additional \$7½ million in funding for the Queensland government's response to the national Closing the Gap report is welcome, Minister Furner has been silent on what targeted strategies will be implemented to improve the Closing the Gap indicators. In relation to multicultural affairs, there is \$1 million for the Celebrating Multicultural Queensland Grants Program, which I noticed is the same as last year, and \$2.2 million for the Community Action for a Multicultural Society Program, CAMS, which is up \$100,000 from last year. This is consistent with the LNP's funding for these important budget items.

In closing my budget speech, I want to say that this budget is disappointing yet again on multiple fronts. It continues to lack vision. Now that is a word I did not hear a lot of—'vision'—unlike the word 'jobs' which was mentioned 54 times. The budget continues to lack vision and an appetite for true economic reform, it does not adequately fund imperative infrastructure, it continues the theme of intergenerational debt and it is an undergraduate attempt to mask the essential fact that the Labor Party know they erred by hastily rushing through sneaky amendments to our voting system with, as other speakers on this side of the chamber have said, 18 minutes notice. They are now paranoid about shoring up inner-city seats, such as South Brisbane, and several regional seats. Remember that the Deputy Premier could only garner 42.7 per cent of the primary vote at the last election and she knows, as we all do, that Greens preference flows will be crucial to her survival. Some 2½ years later, the old democratic socialist playbook is well and truly back in operation. Sadly, as I have said before in this chamber during the two previous Labor budgets, it will be future generations that will also be made to pay a price for this short-term economic sugar fix without fiscal substance.

Mr Pegg interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! Member for Stretton, you are contributing significantly to the volume of conversation in this House and I ask you to desist.

Mr MINNIKIN: A real politician of conviction and substance once said, 'You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today.' That man was Abraham Lincoln. Those across the chamber always proclaim there is dignity in work. We wholeheartedly agree. Maybe though they should have thought about that when framing a budget that will keep unemployment at six per cent.

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (10.18 pm): I rise to speak in support of the 2017 Appropriation Bill before the House. The third budget of the Palaszczuk government is a budget that continues to deliver on the commitments we made to Queenslanders at the last election: to focus on jobs, to invest in the front-line and community services that Queenslanders depend on most and to govern for all Queenslanders equitably and with fairness. It is a true Labor budget and one that everyone on this side of the House has a right to be proud of.

The budget includes: \$16.6 billion for health to strengthen front-line services, redevelop hospitals and bolster mental health care, including in my own electorate with a step-up step-down facility in Nundah; \$13.7 billion for education to invest in our children with new schools and facilities, more teachers, specialist teachers and guidance officers, and an investment in vital early childhood education and care programs; \$1.8 billion for housing in recognition that every Queenslander deserves access to a safe and affordable roof over their and their children's and family's heads; \$1.16 billion for the Powering Queensland Plan to put downward pressure on electricity prices, to ensure secure and reliable electricity supply across Queensland and to lead the state's transition to a 50 per cent renewable energy target, which will deliver significant benefits to Queensland; and \$5.3 billion in concessions to ease the cost of living for households and small businesses across Queensland, including reduced public transport fares. Fairer Fares has been a resounding success across my community and is making a real difference to people's household budgets, along with popular schemes like the electricity rebate and pensioner water and rate subsidy schemes.

However, at the heart of this budget is a \$42 billion Capital Works Program over four years. For me, at the heart of this budget is the commitment to fund the delivery of Cross River Rail. Public transport is incredibly important to my electorate. In fact, as anyone who has looked at an infrastructure map of Nudgee knows, it is the nervous system of the Nudgee electorate and it is something that I am very passionate about. Straight through the centre of my electorate run the Shorncliffe line, the Caboolture and Sunshine Coast line and the Redcliffe Peninsula line, servicing 12 suburban train stations within my electorate boundary. For Nudgee commuters, that city-building project means a reduction in travel times to the city of up to eight minutes on the Caboolture line and a train, on average, every six minutes during peak periods on the Shorncliffe line. I am proud to be a member of this Labor state government that has had the courage and vision to commit to such an exciting and vital infrastructure project for Queensland.

We have already seen over 59,000 new jobs created in Queensland since the election of the Palaszczuk government, but we know we need to create the optimal conditions to see more jobs delivered for Queenslanders. In 2017-18, our Capital Works Program of over \$10 billion will support in the order of 40,000 jobs. That productivity boosting infrastructure program, coupled with the expanded Back to Work program, Advance Queensland program and generous payroll tax rebates, Made in Queensland, Ecobiz and many other small business initiatives are about creating an environment where business and industry can flourish, expand and invest, leading to more jobs and a stronger Queensland economy.

A significant local highlight in this budget is seeing the \$6 million commitment for a new performing arts hall at Wavell State High School contained in BP3. Last year during my budget reply speech I stood in this House speaking of my disappointment that funding had not been allocated to this vital local project. Today I have the opportunity to thank the education minister, on behalf of principal Jeff Major, P&C President Greg Rodgers, teachers, parents and students at Wavell State High School for making that investment in those talented young students.

While I am thanking sincerely my colleague the Minister for Education, I also thank her for the \$250,000 contained in this budget to upgrade Block C at Earnshaw State College. Along with Principal Dave Bosworth, I cannot wait to personally congratulate the student council representatives at Earnshaw for their long-term advocacy for this upgrade. I promised those students that I would do everything I could to see the project delivered and it will be a pleasure to watch them cut the ribbon. Zillmere State School, Geebung Special School and Wavell State High School have also secured much needed funds under the School Infrastructure Enhancement Program to upgrade an outdoor learning area, refurbish classroom and sporting facilities respectively.

Other local highlights include over \$230 million to continue to widen the Gateway Motorway upgrade between Nudgee and Bracken Ridge from four to six lanes. As my neighbour the member for Sandgate knows well, that stretch of the Gateway Motorway has long been a cause of considerable frustration to our local communities, in addition to the estimated 80,000 motorists using the stretch of road daily. Every milestone on this project is one that we keenly celebrate.

I have already mentioned the ongoing funding to construct a new step-up step-down facility in Nundah to offer flexible recovery focused care. The budget also contains half a million dollars to complete the refurbishment at Ashworth House for the provision of interim care services. I thank the health minister for that investment in mental health and transition care services. I take this opportunity to thank him for the investment he made in my electorate in last year's budget for an impressive new Queensland Ambulance Service emergency and fleet management precinct at Geebung, which is soon to be officially opened.

The budget also contains funding to continue the upgrade of Boondall train station, almost \$2 million for substation upgrades at Nudgee, over \$7 million to build new homes for those most in need in my local community and significant investment in community, child safety and disability services across my electorate. I congratulate the Treasurer, his office and the Queensland Treasury officials and staff who have worked so diligently to deliver this budget. Having had the opportunity to serve two past state treasurers, I appreciate the considerable hours dedicated to formulating, scrutinising and delivering a state budget, and this is a budget to be proud of. It is a budget that continues to deliver on the commitments we made to Queenslanders at the last election to focus on jobs, the front-line services that Queenslanders depend on most and building the infrastructure Queensland needs most. It is a budget that articulates a way forward for all of Queensland based on equity and fairness, which are values at the very heart of this government and the Australian Labor Party that I proudly represent in the electorate I proudly serve. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Beaudesert—LNP) (10.25 pm): This budget is a con on all Queenslanders. It budgets for less jobs. It budgets for an \$81 billion debt and deficits as far as the eye can see. It budgets for higher taxes, now and into the future. This budget is bad for the Queensland economy and a millstone around the neck of the next generation. The Labor government's third budget delivers precious little for the Beaudesert electorate, but I will talk more about that shortly. First, I will address some matters in relation to the areas of tourism, sport and racing.

Queensland continues to fall behind New South Wales and Victoria when it comes to the performance of our tourism sector. While record numbers of tourists visit our great country as a whole, Queensland's slice of the tourist pie is shrinking. It is shrinking because we have a do-nothing Labor government that does not have a plan to capitalise on the tourism boom. That was borne out with the recent release of Tourism Research Australia data on international visitor numbers for the first quarter of 2017. Nationally, visitor numbers grew by 9.2 per cent, visitor nights grew by 5.4 per cent and expenditure grew by five per cent. In Queensland, those figures are much lower. In fact, the amount international tourists were spending in Queensland fell by four per cent, which was the worst fall in the nation. Queensland is slipping to the back of the pack when it comes to tourism. In Tropical North Queensland around Cairns, there was a \$9 million fall in visitor spending; in the Mackay region, there was a \$2 million fall in visitor spending and a 20 per cent fall in visitor nights; in the Bundaberg region, there was an 8.8 per cent fall in visitor nights; and on the Sunshine Coast, there was a 3.9 per cent fall in visitor nights. Queensland tourism is slipping even further behind New South Wales and Victoria under this do-nothing government.

Families and tourism businesses, the majority of which are small businesses, are paying more through higher taxes and costs such as electricity. Renewal in tourism assets, infrastructure and attractions is simply not happening. Wherever I go across Queensland, the feedback is clear: we need investment in new accommodation and new attractions to keep tourists at destinations for longer, so that they spend more and more can be accommodated. To do that, we need a government that encourages investment in our tourism industry. That is simply something that this government cannot deliver.

Investment requires certainty, especially certainty that government will get on board with investments, not get in the way. That is a matter of attitude. For as long as it has existed, the Australian Labor Party has had the wrong attitude towards private investment and business. On this side we know we need to encourage private investment to facilitate growth and ensure that investors can be dealt with fairly and quickly in the process, otherwise they simply take their dollars and go home.

Labor scrapped a number of initiatives, such as the red-tape-reduction target for tourism and the growth targets put in place through DestinationQ. Labor watered down our tough criminal gang laws, inviting bikies back to the coast and risking the Gold Coast's reputation as a safe destination, despite the protests of all tourism chiefs. The uncertainty and flip-flopping over lockout laws has damaged the pub, club and entertainment sectors that play such a crucial role—

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! Member for Mudgeeraba and minister, I ask you to desist from having a conversation across the chamber. Member for Mudgeeraba, you have been contributing significantly to the volume of conversation in this House. I ask you to please take note of that.

Mr KRAUSE: The LNP will quarantine a casino licence for northern Queensland to help secure more investment in the north. We started the Attracting Aviation Fund to attract more direct flights to Queensland and it has been fully committed by this government, but members should not forget the fact that the government presided over Cairns' loss of direct flights from China after the LNP secured them in our term in office. While the Premier and minister stood in Brisbane and congratulated China Eastern for flying into Brisbane, they knew it was the far north that was going to lose from that deal. Businesses around Cairns immediately suffered and they continue to suffer. The people of Cairns have not forgotten and they are still feeling the effects of this. In fact, when I talked to some of the operators up there in the last couple of weeks, they told me that they have had two of the worst weeks for this time of year in the last 10 years. It really is a tough time for part of the tourism sector in the far north.

When it comes to cashing in on the booming cruise ship industry, the Labor government has wasted two years by dithering about how to deal with dredging in Trinity Inlet so that larger ships can visit Cairns and bring more of those dollars off the cruise ships. The LNP had things ready to go, but two years ago the Labor Party scrapped the funding in their first budget and now they are panicking and putting it back. But they are not putting it back immediately: it is only next year. When it comes to tourism, Labor is all talk and no action.

In relation to racing, there is nothing in this budget that will lift the pall of uncertainty and lack of confidence in this government and Racing Queensland. I know that spending commitments are being made up and down the state to make minor investments in racing clubs, and no club and no community will reject that, especially after there was a 2½ year freeze on infrastructure, but what we need to know is what is the plan and where is the plan? This government and Racing Queensland said they would deliver an infrastructure plan to ensure the future of the industry. No such plan has been delivered—or at least not delivered and articulated—by this government. We only see money being splashed around with no discernible strategy. More importantly, there is no plan from this government or RQ to ensure that racing survives and flourishes in Queensland.

Like the economy, growth in racing requires confidence, and confidence in this industry was shattered by the Labor government. It was shattered two years ago as a result of its capricious, politics-driven decision to sack the entire RQ board when issues arose in the greyhound code. They have still failed to take the bit between the teeth in recent times, when RQ and the minister were extremely slow in reacting to the unfolding issues with the Eagle Farm racetrack. Where was Racing Queensland in relation to getting on top of this issue early in the piece? Eagle Farm is the showpiece of Queensland racing, yet it seems that cuts to the maintenance budget for the new track, which were forced through by RQ in the early days of the Labor government, may well have contributed to the debacle we are now seeing at Eagle Farm. The LNP left the racing industry confident, with a big future and with growth in the years ahead. This government will stand condemned by the racing industry for shattering that confidence and failing dismally to rebuild it.

In relation to the sport portfolio I want to make a couple of comments about certain aspects of the budget. I note that there were announcements made in relation to providing increased funding of \$20.6 million over four years from 2017-18 to support Stadiums Queensland and enhance management of the state's premier sporting facilities.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! There are too many conversations and mutterings occurring down the chamber and across the chamber. It is quite difficult to hear the member. Every member has the right to be heard. Could I please ask members to keep their conversation to a minimum and not stand in the aisles having conversations, because it is contributing to a general increase in volume in the chamber.

Mr KRAUSE: I was talking about the \$20.6 million over four years for Stadiums Queensland. I look forward to hearing more detail from the minister about where that funding is being directed. I note there is also a commitment of \$64.3 million across a variety of funding programs focused around

individual participation, local club and organisation capacity development and development of sport and recreation places. I imagine that would include the Get in the Game initiative. That was a successful initiative that was introduced by the former government, and it has continued to be built on during this parliament. I also note the allocation of \$15 million over two years from 2017-18 to deliver female-friendly change facilities and the commitment to continue to deliver on recommendations from the Start Playing, Stay Playing report to promote and encourage women and girls to participate in sport and active recreation. A lot of the consultation that I have done in this role, particularly in the sports of women's cricket and football, relates to the issue of promoting the participation of girls and women in sport. Having facilities for them has been a constant issue, and it is good to see those initiatives in the budget. We look forward to exploring further how those funds will be implemented and spent.

In relation to partnering with the Department of Education and Training to increase community use of schools for sport and recreation, I can only say that I think that is a good idea. If it had not been done in the past to the maximum extent possible, that was a misuse of public assets. We should be using schools and other public facilities as much as possible for the greater community use. Get in the Game was a terrific initiative of the LNP, and I am thrilled to see that it is still being continued by this government because it has certainly been taken to the community's heart. There are \$150 vouchers to help people get into club sport and infrastructure funding of \$100,000 or \$1.5 million for larger projects.

I will now refer to this budget's implications for the Beaudesert electorate. This budget sends Queensland back onto the dark path of debt, deficit and higher taxes. Debt is going up to \$81 billion, there are deficits from 2018-19 onwards, car registration hikes of 3.5 per cent and Public Service wages are rising six per cent. We see the Labor government gouging additional profits of \$700 million from state owned power stations, and this is something that we all pay for on our power bills. This is why we are seeing massive increases in the cost of power for businesses like AJ Bush and Gelita around Beaudesert. These businesses are major employers, and when we see rapid, huge increases in the cost of power it places at risk the ability of these businesses to keep growing and employing the dozens of people that they do. Not only that, but it places at risk our farming businesses who rely so heavily on electricity to irrigate. They do not know when it will rain. They need cheaper, reliable power to keep growing the food and fibre that contribute so much to our state and, more importantly, to so many jobs for our local families and communities.

This budget is a con on the users of the Mount Lindesay Highway. The government is spruiking a \$20 million spend on the highway, saying that work will commence in 2018. In fact, this allocation is not available until 2019-20, and even then it will be allocated to upgrade around one kilometre of road. Last night the member for Logan claimed that he had delivered \$85 million of investment in the Mount Lindesay Highway—10 times more than was delivered under the tenure of the former government. I know that some members opposite have trouble dealing with numbers, but clearly if the member for Logan had looked up his history properly he would have seen that in 2014 the LNP budgeted and delivered and allocated at least \$25 million for the Beaudesert Town Bypass project, which was an allocation to the Mount Lindesay Highway. That is clearly more than \$8.5 million, which would be 10 per cent of his \$85 million figure. I do not know where the member for Logan is getting these figures from or how he is working out how much he delivered and how much we delivered, but he is clearly on the wrong path with that statement. More importantly, where are the plans for an overall upgrade of the road? What has the government been doing to plan for this in the past two years and four months? I think very clearly the answer is: nothing.

The federal government has done all of the heavy lifting on this highway, recently committing \$16 million. You could tell that this caught the state on the hop, because they had no idea what to do with the money. First of all, they said they would put the plans out for consultation for 18 months to decide what to do. Since then we have heard talk about intersection upgrades at North McLean, but the community is still waiting to see what real improvements will be made to the highway in the future.

After a long fight from the whole community the LNP restored maternity and other procedural services at Beaudesert Hospital while in government because former Labor governments took them away. Over 600 babies have now been born at Beaudesert Hospital since these services resumed in February 2014, and I thank the member for Southern Downs for his advocacy in getting that service re-established. Our community is stronger for mums having the ability to give birth close to home and for dads and families being able to visit more easily. It is only right that people can have minor operations and procedures performed in Beaudesert, which avoids the need for extensive—and in some cases expensive—travel to other hospitals. There is nothing new in this budget for the Beaudesert Hospital. I sought from the Minister for Health an allocation to expand services—something the local HHS has previously considered doing. Strong residential growth requires ongoing investment, and I will continue to fight for that at Beaudesert Hospital.

The LNP in office also brought 24-hour policing to Beaudesert after the community struggled for years to have their voice heard about the lack of police resources. It was a great improvement to have more police in the region—part of the LNP's work to have 1,100 new officers employed over four years. I have consistently made representations to ensure that the upgrade of Beaudesert Police Station is on the agenda of the Queensland Police Service. It now acknowledges the need for this upgrade. In fact, it was on the agenda some 10 or 12 years ago when, as I am told by people in the community, former local members were assured it would be upgraded—but the funding never came.

The station was built in 1980, designed for four or five officers. It now has 20 or more. They bump into each other. There is not enough space to house all of the equipment. Watch house facilities are completely outdated. We need it upgraded. The budget allocates \$100,000 in 2017-18, presumably for design work that I would have thought was already done in the past two years. The larger chunk of funding to complete the upgrade is allocated in 2018-19. I am pleased to see this in the budget but I am wary that, just like in the past, this funding in 2018-19 will disappear into the ether if the Labor government is re-elected. It has happened before. It should not happen again. Just as I have done since being elected, I will keep up the fight to get our fair share of resources for policing. Despite all of the spending, there is no new police vehicle for Tamborine Mountain and Canungra, where 16 officers have two vehicles and one on loan from the district. It is not good enough.

The Rathdowney community will continue to be exposed to fire risks as a result of this do-nothing government's dithering on the construction of a new fire station. The LNP funded this in 2014 because hardworking, dedicated volunteers in the rural fire brigade and auxiliary firefighters need a better facility to work from. Since Labor came to office it has stalled, although the former minister, the member for Rockhampton, said in estimates last year that construction would start in early 2017. I called on the new minister to bring it forward after he said it would now be the 2019-20 financial year before Rathdowney sees a new station. Over five years to build a fire station is simply outrageous and, sadly, the budget locks in this do-nothing approach. Rathdowney and surrounding areas are at risk because of it. The wait for a new fire shed at Rathdowney goes on under Labor.

Beaudesert State High School is a large school. That is why I have been asking the government to look at ways to expand its footprint by acquiring additional land and to spend a few dollars to improve traffic flows around the school. There is nothing in the budget for this. The government is crowing about building new high schools in the middle of Brisbane, but there is no shortage of choice of schools in Brisbane. That funding is nothing but pure political pork-barrelling.

While Brisbane might get two more high schools, our region is forgotten. Many parents have contacted me about the safety of children crossing the road outside the high school. I have taken this up on a number of occasions with the Department of Transport and Main Roads, as has the school community. I welcome news that safety upgrades outside the school—probably pedestrian crossing lights—are being considered; however, there is more to be done. I will keep fighting for investment in all of the schools across our region.

I see also that Transport and Main Roads will be undertaking further planning work ahead of a Commonwealth-state jointly funded upgrade of the Amberley interchange on the Cunningham Highway. This is important work and a significant issue for the residents of Willowbank, Ebenezer and beyond who every day deal with huge congestion issues as a result of the growth of the Amberley air base, growth that is expected to continue. I know that the member for Lockyer has been working on this for some time now, supported by local government representative Councillor David Pahlke. With the change in electoral boundaries this area will be in the Scenic Rim electorate, and I will be standing for election in Scenic Rim. In fact, I was out there a couple of times last week, doorknocking in Willowbank and speaking to residents in other areas. It is very close to where I grew up, at Marburg. I went to school in Marburg and Ipswich. I want to assure residents in those areas that this issue is top of my mind and I will be doing all I can to ensure federal and state governments put funding in to upgrade the interchange.

This budget and this Labor government in general fail our region on so many fronts. There seems to be no recurrent funding for all of the services of the Beaudesert and Boonah government agencies. There is nothing new for the hospitals. There is no investment in the schools—not one dollar from the \$200 million announced a few months ago. There is no plan for the Mount Lindesay Highway. The energy plans of this government will send prices through the roof, again hurting families, farmers and small businesses. Work to improve the crossing at Coulson on the Beaudesert Boonah Road is still not funded. The government plans to bring back draconian vegetation management laws that will hurt all landholders and their ability to manage their land.

As a state we need to live within our means. The path of record debt, deficit and higher taxes that will always come with it will strangle our economy. Our families cannot afford that. Our farmers cannot afford that. The people of my region are hardworking people, but they feel as though they are constantly undercut by government.

I will always stand for responsible government spending and budgeting. Just like households, we need to balance the budget. This government simply cannot do it. Debt and deficit are in their DNA. They are addicted to spending and to putting people on the public payroll while everybody else pays. This budget is a con. It pork-barrels in Labor electorates. It shows that spending now and into the future will continue to grow at a rate way above the rate of population growth. Under Labor we are going to see Queensland's debt reach a level never seen before. Sadly, Queensland is back exactly where it was with the Bligh government—a do-nothing government, with spending out of control, and a government that is a drag on the economy. When people look back on this budget in the years to come, after the raids on superannuation last year, they will see it not as a plan for the future of Queensland but only a plan to try and fool the people of Queensland with short-term spending hits. I am not fooled and the people of Queensland will not be, either.

(Time expired)

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (10.46 pm): I rise to speak to the 2017-18 budget handed down by the Treasurer this week. Members have heard many times the members for Mundingburra and Thuringowa and me speak about the many outstanding achievements the Palaszczuk government has delivered in Townsville over the past 2½ years. More specifically, I wish today to highlight what the Palaszczuk government is doing for the electorate of Townsville, which is supported significantly by the budget announcements this week. The people of Townsville have very high expectations of the Palaszczuk government in this budget. I can assure them that their expectations have been met and exceeded.

There has been no secret about the desperate need for a long-term water solution for our growing city. When the Premier signed the first ever city deals with the mayor of Townsville and the federal government, it created an opportunity for all three levels of government to come together, regardless of their political persuasion, and commit to a 15-year plan for the city.

When the Treasurer handed down the budget on Tuesday of this week, a resounding commitment was made by the Palaszczuk government to the people of Townsville. The Premier said that she had heard what the mums and dads and the people on the streets and down on The Strand had said to her around Townsville's needs for a long-term water solution. They have been saying this for the past 30 years. The Premier has delivered this much needed solution by putting \$225 million on the table. This \$225 million is more than a game-changer for Townsville. It is a visionary step in creating Townsville as the capital of north Australia. This \$225 million for water infrastructure opens opportunity for industry and business as the powerhouse of the north. Like the Burdekin Falls Dam, built by a Labor government, did in the 1980s—it opened large farming areas and agricultural land—this \$225 million commitment by the Labor state government to water infrastructure will unlock the next level of opportunity in North Queensland.

The infrastructure spend by the Palaszczuk government extends beyond the \$225 million for water infrastructure. It includes \$75 million for widening of the Platypus Channel for the port of Townsville. I will recap just how much money has been committed to the Port of Townsville by the Palaszczuk government: \$110 million for the upgrade of berth 4 to convert it to a fully operating containerisation berth; \$55 million for pylon encapsulation to make it safe for the berths; and now \$75 million for widening of the channel. For those in the House who have not been calculating the investments made by the Palaszczuk government into the port, it totals \$225 million.

It seems that \$225 million is the magic number for the Premier when it comes to Townsville—\$225 million for water infrastructure and \$225 million for the port redevelopment. Why is \$225 million committed by the Palaszczuk government into the Townsville port? Because we own it! The former Newman government under the direct recommendation of then treasurer Tim Nicholls wanted to sell the Port of Townsville to the highest bidder. Chinese, Indian or USA ownership of the largest commercial port in north Australia would have made the people of Townsville see red, and they did. The investment of \$75 million to widen the channel will encourage larger container ships to stop at Townsville and unload rather than bypassing us and sailing on to Brisbane to unload, therefore putting containers on the back of trucks and road freighting them up to Townsville. That will mean cheaper consumer prices for mums and dads, and that is a great thing for us. The Port of Townsville needs to expand as exports to international ports are growing at an exponential rate.

Townsville is located closer to Singapore and several other of our Asian trading partners. The business case is being done to relocate the rail line to the port and increase its capacity. The state development area will then ideally be activated as a back end of port warehouse distribution centre. When these long-term projects are achieved, the Port of Townsville will become a vibrant north Australia and international transport warehouse and distribution hub.

Schools in my electorate have also been rewarded in the budget. Bwngcolman Community School on Palm Island will receive half a million dollars for upgrades to its science block through the School Infrastructure Enhancement Program as well as \$325,000 for the school's D block through the same funding program. It was celebrations all round at Townsville State High School's P&C meeting on Tuesday night. It was your regular P&C meeting, but there were celebrations when I rang principal Rob Slater to give him the great news that \$500,000 had been attributed to the school hall improvements. These hall improvements will stop pigeons and possums calling the building home but, more importantly from my experience, it will prevent possums procreating during school assemblies in full view of 700 students.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr STEWART: It is difficult when 700 students view those sorts of things happening, and that will stop it now. I indeed welcome the announcement and thank the Minister for Education. As already acknowledged by the member for Hinchinbrook, the Townsville Stadium is an outstanding infrastructure project where the Premier has committed \$140 million to a project that will, according to managing contractor Watpac, create over 2,000 jobs. Construction will kick off on the jewel in the crown of North Queensland in the coming months and it will be ready to welcome the North Queensland Cowboys on to the grounds ready to beat the Broncos yet again. Madam Deputy Speaker Farmer, I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

Mr Speaker, the following details outline the Palaszczuk Government's commitment to Townsville:

- \$46.1 million in 2017-18 to commence construction of a sports stadium in Townsville, worth \$250 million.
- \$10.0 million in 2017-18, as part of a \$30.0 million over four years commitment, to deliver urgently needed fisheries reform, improve sustainability of Queensland Fisheries, ensure jobs are maintained and deliver a more modern, responsive and consultative approach to fisheries management. This will include 20 more frontline compliance officers, including three in Townsville.
- \$5.0 million in 2017-18 to commence redevelopment of the Townsville Hospital to increase clinical service capacity and patient flows to meet current and future service demands worth \$10.4 million.
- \$1.6 million in 2017-18 for the relocation of the Townsville Hospital breast screen clinic to a more appropriate site to improve patient flow.
- \$249,000 in 2017-18, as part of a \$532,000 commitment over two years, to provide additional prosecutorial staff to support the Specialist High Risk Youth Court in Townsville.
- Grant funding of \$10,000, as part of a \$50,000 commitment, provided to Campbell Scientific Australia Pty Ltd towards the development of water management sensors.
- Grant funding of \$9,120 as part of a \$45,600 commitment over 1 year provided to Be Psyched towards the development of an integrated online platform for health professionals.
- Grant funding of \$4,800, as part of a \$24,000 commitment, provided to SeaLink Queensland Pty Ltd towards the development of a North Queensland Tourism Knowledge Cluster strategy.

Department of the Premier and Cabinet

- Grant funding is a \$20,000 commitment over a five month period to produce interpretative signage, commemorating the US soldiers based at the Catalina airbase and the role played by Palm Island and its Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander inhabitants during the Second World War.
- \$830,000 in 2017-18, as part of a \$3.3 million commitment over four years, to provide funding to Queensland based arts and cultural organisations to deliver arts and cultural activities for the benefit of Queensland.

Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning

- \$1.0 million, as part of a \$2.5 million commitment over two years, to undertake streetscaping works.

Economic Development Queensland

- \$4.5 million in 2017-18 to commence construction of aircraft parking aprons to support commercial operations accommodate growth of the specialist aviation industrial activities at Townsville Airport, worth \$9.0 million.
- \$7.0 million in 2017-18 to commence rejuvenation a 1.5 kilometre stretch of the Ross Creek frontage, involving the construction of a continuous pedestrian and cycle pathway link through to the centre of Townsville's CBD, worth \$14.0 million.

Queensland Reconstruction Authority

- An estimated \$474,000 in 2017/18 will be provided to Local Government Authorities fully or partly within Townsville Electorate for recovery and reconstruction projects in partnership with the Australian Government.

Health

- \$7.7 million for completion of the Palm Island Primary Health Care Centre including an Adult Clinic, Maternal and Child Health Clinic and a Social and Emotional Wellbeing Clinic for the Palm Island community, worth in total \$8.5 million.
- \$8.6 million in 2017-18 to complete the redevelopment of the Townsville Hospital, including Stage 3 and 4 works to refurbish and expand the Central Sterilising and Supply Department and build a new clinical education and administration space, worth \$334 million.
- \$2.6 million in 2017-18 to complete the fitout and refurbishment of the existing Paediatrics ward at Townsville Hospital worth \$6.6 million.
- \$221,274 in 2017-18 for an additional single bed bone marrow transplant rooms in Oncology to improve infection control and patient safety at Townsville Hospital, at a total cost of \$1.6 million.
- Grant funding of \$ 94,741 in 2017-18 to provide alcohol and other drug outpatient treatment services.
- Grant funding of \$1.7 million, as part of a \$3.5 million commitment over two years, to provide health services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- Grant funding of \$1.3 million, as part of a \$4.0 million commitment over three years, to provide non-clinical support services to people with mental illness, their carers and families.
- Grant funding of \$158,786, as part of a \$793,930 commitment over five years, to provide management of environmental issues that impact on health in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Department of State Development

- \$410,993 as part of a \$215.4 million commitment from the Building our Regions program, to survey, repair and replace water supply, sewerage and power connections to the Palm Island sporting precinct's facilities.

Department of Energy and Water Supply

- \$1.9 million in 2017-18, out of a \$2.1 million total spend, for end-of-life and safety replacements of obsolete underground cable terminations.
- \$20.6 million in 2017-18, out of a \$42.5 million total spend, for the second stage of the redevelopment at the Garbutt Depot in Townsville.
- \$982,000 in 2017-18, out of a \$15.6 million total spend, to upgrade the Palm Island Power Station.

Environment and Heritage Protection

- \$550,000 to undertake research into flying fox behaviours and roost management
- \$75,524 for Everyone's Environment Grant program, as part of a \$12 million commitment over 5 years to implement real and practical actions to clean up environmental and to work with communities to tackle environmental degradation in their areas. Funding will seek to build resilience to help the environment to withstand future weather events.
- \$50,000 as part of a \$150,000 agreement over 3 years to support the operational expenses of Queensland Conservation Council and regional conservation groups.

National Parks, Sport and Racing

- \$223,691 to complete a \$699,382 project to deliver the replacement of a current National Parks Field Management Program funded vessel.

Science, Information Technology and Innovation

- Grant funding is \$48,793 as part of a \$97,585 commitment over 1 year provided to Space Counts Pty Ltd towards an innovative idea: Space Counts.
- \$17,000 to support the operations of the Palm Island Indigenous Knowledge Centre.
- \$7,400 in 2017-18 for training programs for people on Palm Island to increase their skills and knowledge on digital devices.
- \$869,182 in ongoing funding to ensure the adequate supply of library resources to public libraries throughout Queensland to benefit the electorates of Thuringowa, Townsville and Mundingburra.
- Grant funding is \$161,180 in 2017-18, as part of a \$644,720 commitment over four years, provided to public libraries providing services to the electorates of Thuringowa, Townsville and Mundingburra to support parents in their (0-5) child's emergent literacy development.

Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services

- \$598,036 in 2017-18 to assist persons under 65 or an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person aged under 50, with a disability.
- \$605,208 in 2017-18, as part of a \$2,420,832 commitment over four years, to provide support for older people to help maintain and strengthen their connections to community.
- \$488,683 in 2017-18 to provide information, linkage and capacity building for people with a disability.
- \$5.1 million in 2017-18, as part of a \$20.2 million commitment over four years, to provide out-of-home care placement services to ensure children and young people in need of protection are supported and safe.
- \$1.9 million in 2017-18, as part of a \$7.4 million commitment over four years, to provide child protection support services that help support children and families meet case plan goals.
- \$266,115 in 2017-18, as part of a \$1,064,462 commitment over four years, to provide domestic and family violence services to improve the safety and wellbeing of victims and their children, particularly those in high risk situations.

- \$8.9 million in 2017-18, as part of a \$35.6 million commitment over four years, to provide family support services to work with vulnerable families to help improve parenting skills and give parents the support they need to prevent problems from escalating to crisis point.
- \$1.5 million in 2017-18, as part of a \$6.1 million commitment over four years, to provide domestic and family violence services to improve the safety and wellbeing of victims and their children, particularly those in high risk situations.
- \$5.4 million in 2017-18, as part of a \$21.5 million commitment over four years, to provide support to vulnerable individuals and assist them to get their lives back on track.
- \$115,374 in 2017-18, as part of a \$461,494 commitment over four years, to provide programs to increase the ability for individuals and community groups to participate positively in their community.
- \$2.0 million as part of a \$7.9 million commitment over four years, to provide support to vulnerable women to keep them safe and connected in their communities.
- \$839,194 in 2017-18, as part of a \$3.4 million commitment over four years, to provide support for young people at risk of disconnection, focusing service delivery efforts on building their connections to their families and the community.

Housing and Public Works

- \$16.2 million in 2017-18 to complete 36 dwellings in Palm Island
- \$1.2 million in 2017-18 to commence and complete two dwellings in Palm Island
- \$1.0 million in 2017-18 to provide transitional housing to eligible applicants with very high or high needs.
- \$18,000 in 2017-18 for grant funding to registered housing providers to deliver crisis accommodation to eligible persons by leasing properties from the private rental market.
- \$3.0 million in 2017-18 to improve social housing
- \$3,400,000 in 2017-18 to upgrade properties to the Social Housing standard
- \$577,000 in 2017-18 to provide Home Assist Secure services
- \$11.3 million in funding for non-government organisations to deliver specialist homelessness services aimed at both reducing the number of homeless people and the number of people becoming homeless in Queensland by assisting people to: obtain housing, maintain their housing and maximising their capacity to be independent, self-reliant and connected to appropriate social and community supports.
- \$1.8 million in 2017-18 to purchase 12 replacement dwellings in Townsville.
- \$6.0 million in 2017-18 to complete construction of 54 units of accommodation in Townsville.
- \$161,000 in 2017-18 to relieve overcrowding through building extensions to 40 year lease properties under Rural and Remote Funding.

National Parks, Sport and Racing

- \$34,612 in 2017-18, as part of a \$173,060 commitment, to increase participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people on Palm Island in structured sport and active recreation activities in each community.
- \$33,137 in 2017-18, as part of a \$165,685 commitment, to increase participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Townsville in structured sport and active recreation activities in each community.
- \$825,000 in 2017-18, as part of a \$3.3 million commitment, to implement various capital work projects at the Townsville Sports Reserve Precinct to continue improving sports facilities.
- \$220,000 in 2017-18, as part of a \$400,000 commitment, to re-develop the Palm Island Sports precinct, including clubhouse facilities and netball and basketball facilities.

Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning

- \$2.5 million in 2017-18 to continue upgrades to the wastewater infrastructure at Palm Island, worth \$5.5 million.
- \$942,556 in 2017-18, as part of a \$1.3 million commitment over two years, to excavate, sort and remove all waste items at the current waste disposal facility (Mandarra Road, Palm Island) in order to close/rehabilitate the current site.
- \$865,356 in 2017-18, as part of a \$1.8 million commitment over two years, to upgrade footpaths in the Townsville CBD to improve community safety.

Transport and Main Roads

- \$14.4 million in 2017-18, as part of a \$37.3 million commitment, for the redevelopment of the Port of Townsville Berth 4 facility, including alignment with adjacent berth and deck surface works.
- \$1 million in 2017-18 for the realignment and rehabilitation of sections of the road network in the port to facilitate trade.

Statewide Initiatives

- \$55.1 million statewide to roll out domestic and family violence specialist court, for civil matters, including Townsville with circuit to Palm Island, expansion of Magistrate Courts facilities and additional prosecutors, legal aid, support services and training. I commend the bill to the House.



Ms SIMPSON (Maroochydore—LNP) (10.53 pm): Queenslanders are paying more and getting less under this budget. Motorists are the biggest losers in this Labor budget, slugged with rego hikes yet again, making car rego some of the most expensive in Australia. Meanwhile, transport spending has been slashed by a billion dollars from the forward program for this year. As RACQ spokesperson Paul Turner noted, motorists are already paying through the nose for their registration. Under Labor, Queensland rego costs have risen by more than 10 per cent in the last three years. Annual jumps of 3.5 per cent are almost double the inflation rate and nothing more than a tax grab on motorists.

Only the LNP will give motorists a fair go. I endorse leader Tim Nicholls's announcement that if the LNP is elected at the next state election we will, in our budgets, freeze the family car rego for three years. Unlike Labor, whose maladministration of the public purse is legendary, we will put a focus back on treating taxpayers' hard-earned tax dollars with respect by ensuring that we use it to build the infrastructure that is needed in the most cost-effective way possible, that there is a steady pipeline of works for business and workers in the construction industry to have some certainty of future investment, and to give the economy the building blocks to grow the jobs in the private sector for Queenslanders rather than just growing the public sector over and above the rapid rate that we have seen in the past, and there have been warnings from the Auditor-General about the rate of growth. We all support there being a good, qualified public sector to service Queenslanders in front-line services, but the Auditor-General has warned that the rate of growth is outstripping the income for this state.

Cost of living matters to Queenslanders. It is not a laughing matter, so it is important that their taxpayers' dollars are invested carefully for a real return in cost-effective infrastructure and services. We have heard about a \$5.6 billion blowout in public sector expenses, which is a concern, because ultimately it is taxpayers' money and they are the ones who have to pay. All of Queensland has been duded by the transport cutbacks in critical areas with what is a bread and water budget for the delivery of transport infrastructure. As the RACQ's Paul Turner said, the club was disappointed overall that transport investment was less than last year. He said—

More than one billion dollars has been wiped from the government's own initial forecast spending on transport and infrastructure.

Based on the last Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program (QTRIP), we expected to see road and transport capital funding of at least \$4.8 billion next financial year, instead of the \$3.8 billion announced in today's Budget.

He went on to say—

Add to that the fact there's \$700 million that went unspent last year. We're concerned roads and transport aren't being given the priority they should be.

That means that every region, including the Sunshine Coast, is fighting over crumbs when they should have been seeing some meat put on the table to build the jobs and get our regions going, particularly with the transport infrastructure that is needed.

There are some small bright spots in the budget which you would expect have to be done such as the building of classrooms in our local schools, and I do welcome those and acknowledge that. It has been announced before that the Coolum State High School will get new classrooms, but they are about to commence and that is good to see even though we have heard it announced before. What is new in the budget papers is the announcement of \$100,000 to start the replacement program for the Coolum Police Station, something that I have been calling for and I welcome that forward commitment of \$2.7 million.

When we got the permanent site for the police station on South Coolum Road, initially we were able to have the police relocated in their existing building but a permanent solution was always going to be needed. We still, however, need to see a commitment to the upgrade of Maroochydore Police Station, which is well and truly overdue, and I call on the government to commit to funds to ensure that there is adequate accommodation provided for the Maroochydore Police Station which is at the hub of the Sunshine Coast operations. Maroochydore High has \$1.18 million being spent out of a \$1.612 million total to build additional classrooms. While this also has been announced before, I acknowledge this work and also the work of the school, which is keen to ensure that that money is addressed in the most necessary areas.

It is extremely disappointing that we are still to see serious funding—quite frankly, any funding—for the upgrade of the Bruce Highway south of the Caloundra interchange. The Sunshine Coast has a population of 340,000 people. I think the Moreton Bay region has a population of approximately 370,000 people. There are about 700,000 people living north of the boundary of Brisbane. The Bruce Highway is a critical lifeline for those two adjoining regions.

The federal government has announced half a billion dollars to go towards the upgrade of the Bruce Highway south of Caloundra and we are still to see the state government stump up its 20 per cent contribution. The traditional split between the Commonwealth and the state government is 80 to 20 and the state has to come to the party for this project. We must see the Bruce Highway upgraded. We must see this critical infrastructure improved.

It is also extremely disappointing that the duplication of the north coast rail line is still to make the budget papers. The LNP committed to this duplication in its last budget before it lost government. It was disappointing to lose government and to see that project removed. This government said, 'We'll put in a lift at Nambour Railway Station.' However, if the north coast rail line were upgraded, the Nambour Railway Station would have to be gutted and rebuilt, so that work would be redundant spending. There

was nothing in this budget for the duplication of the north coast railway line. It is an 1880s alignment. It is incredible to see what was done in the 1880s. One would think that, in this day and age, we would see common sense prevail and we would have trains travelling along that track at speeds they can travel at on other areas of track. The tilt train cannot go more than 50 kilometres an hour through sections of the Sunshine Coast because that line was built in the 1880s. For goodness sake, it is time to see this track upgraded. It is time to stop mucking around. This is the third business case and still there is no commitment from this government. This upgrade must be done. The Bruce Highway is important, but we will never get ahead of the growth with Caloundra South—or Aura—coming on line along with all the other growth on the Sunshine Coast and Moreton Bay unless that track is duplicated. It has to happen.

The other infrastructure is the access roads to our new hospital. Our new hospital is brilliant, but the roads to it are not. We have seen some tinkering around the edges with roundabouts, but goodness me, there needs to be an arterial network upgrade. The Mooloolah River interchange is critical to that infrastructure. The last section of the Sunshine Motorway heading north is only two lanes. It needs to be four lanes. There needs to be a new connecting road to Kawana Way and a proper rebuild of that interchange. That area is one of the black spots of the Sunshine Coast. The traffic statistics show very clearly that too many people have been injured or killed at that spot. The Mooloolah River interchange is critical.

It is time that we saw money spent on real transport infrastructure, rather than this rolling over of underspend and nonspend and government PR, but no construction. There has to be a pipeline of works that are meaningful and real to start the infrastructure for this region.

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (11.03 pm): Around 2½ years ago Queensland Labor told Queenslanders that there was a better way, which included consulting and engaging with communities, stakeholders—big and small—business and industry groups and, of course, individual Queenslanders. That better way included restoring front-line services. Over the past two years we have put Queenslanders first, with more than 9,000 additional doctors, nurses, teachers and teacher aides, police, health professionals and ambulance officers employed across the state. That includes 67 extra nurses, 47 extra doctors and 132 extra teachers in Central Queensland.

We promised to create jobs. We now have close to a net 60,000 extra jobs since 2015. This budget, with \$788 million for productivity-enhancing infrastructure and capital works in Central Queensland, \$566 million for the Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service and \$25 million for maintenance and capital works projects for schools in Central Queensland, will support directly a whopping 3,200 jobs in Central Queensland in 2017-18.

Before I speak about what this budget means for the electorate of Keppel, I want to talk about Cross River Rail. Why would a member from regional Queensland want to talk about Cross River Rail? It is because I am annoyed that Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull consistently refused to commit to a matching federal government commitment to the traffic congestion-busting Cross River Rail project for South-East Queensland. Before the budget was handed down on Tuesday, the Palaszczuk government had committed \$850 million for Cross River Rail. We asked, and we asked and we asked for a matching commitment from the Turnbull government so that work on the project could get underway. This is a shovel-ready project, with all of the major state approvals in place. The business case was finalised and provided to the Turnbull government 12 months ago. This is a project that will take up to 18,500 car trips off our major arterial roads every day and deliver thousands of jobs. It is Queensland's No. 1 infrastructure priority.

Mr Elmes interjected.

Mrs LAUGA: I will tell the member for Noosa why it is relevant to the electorate of Keppel in a moment. The Turnbull government has funded major rail projects in New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia, but it refuses to give Queensland our fair share. The Prime Minister had absolutely no excuse for continuing to fail to fund Cross River Rail to help alleviate traffic congestion. Those opposite have been so quiet about Cross River Rail. They know that we need it, but they did not stand up for it. They did not say, 'Come on Prime Minister, let's get Queensland moving. Can you help us out? Let's get this project going.' No. All of them were silent. They refused to go into bat for Queensland.

As a result, the Palaszczuk government has had to swoop in, save the day and go it alone for Cross River Rail. We were sick and tired of the political games from Malcolm Turnbull and the LNP. Instead, we had to fully fund this \$5.4 billion project—one of Queensland's biggest ever infrastructure projects—in the state budget. We will no longer wait for the do-nothing Turnbull government. We are getting on with building Cross River Rail without its funding commitment.

However, I am angry. I ask members to imagine what we could do with the \$850 million in funding that Malcolm Turnbull and his government should have contributed to Cross River Rail which, instead, has had to come out of state coffers. It is like when I was a university student living in a share house with a housemate and it is the housemate's turn to buy the toilet paper. Of course, the toilet paper is an absolute necessity. You cannot go without it—just like Cross River Rail is an absolute necessity for Queensland. But your housemate has let everyone down and not bought the toilet paper. Even though you bought it the last time, you have to dip into your own cash and buy this essential household item out of your own money. You are spending your own money on something that you really should not have to, because it is not your turn. You would much rather spend that money on something else—like rent, bills or beer.

The Palaszczuk government is the good housemate. It is stumping up the cash for Cross River Rail, because our federal government—the bad housemate who does not meet their part of the bargain—is not stumping up with its fair share. That money could be spent on other things, such as the electorate of Keppel. Imagine the jobs that could be generated in building additional roads, water infrastructure, hospital upgrades, and classrooms right across the state. Imagine what we could do with that money. Hundreds and millions of additional dollars could be spent in rural and regional Queensland helping farmers cope with the drought. Imagine the stimulus and jobs that additional money would create in cities and towns.

Malcolm Turnbull refused, refused and refused to contribute his fair share to the Cross River Rail project. That means that \$850 million less now can be spent across our amazing state. What a shame that the \$850 million black hole that the Turnbull government left had to be filled by the Palaszczuk government—the Cross River Rail saviours—and that that money could not otherwise be spent on job generating projects in regional Queensland.

I could go on and on and on about this budget and the \$42 million in job generating projects that this budget delivers in Keppel, but I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

Mister Speaker, the Palaszczuk Government is focused on supporting continued growth and creating jobs for Queensland, while enabling the state's \$300 billion economy to transform to a more innovative, diverse and productive economy.

This Budget has over \$42 million in job-generating projects in Keppel. Our biggest State High School in Yeppoon, Mister Speaker, Yeppoon State High School, will receive \$1.4 million to upgrade a multi-purpose hall to continue to invest in this growing school's infrastructure.

There is \$5.5 million to be spent on much needed upgrades to the North Rockhampton Nursing Centre (and might I add that I'm so pleased the Palaszczuk Government is investing in the North Rocky Nursing Centre as opposed to letting it sit and squander and try to sell it off Mister Speaker like those opposite wanted to do).

We are investing \$1.5 million into the development of stages 2, 3 and 4 of the Hartley Street Recreation Reserve which will give Emu Park much needed new sporting facilities.

Cyclists who enjoy touring our beautiful part of the world will benefit from \$735,000 for new bike lanes on the Bruce Highway (Rockhampton-St Lawrence) at a total cost of \$2.2 million.

She said two new projects would boost hiking and camping facilities in the region.

The first is a \$450,000 investment to complete stage 1 of the Mount Archer Activation Plan involving new trails and the redevelopment of the existing trail network on the Archer summit.

And one which will be very popular on the coast is a \$460,000 upgrade of Upper Stoney Creek Access Road to include restoration and replacement of road drainage and new signage.

This is one of the most popular day-trip and weekend destinations in this region.

Another major infrastructure boost leading to more jobs is the \$3.4 million commitment to build a local disaster co-ordination centre in Yeppoon the sod for which is expected to be turned next week.

We're also putting in \$3 million towards Stage 1 of the Yeppoon Homemaker Centre to boost local business and jobs, and nearly \$2.47 million to develop an artificial hockey surface and associated infrastructure which will allow it to host national and international competitions.

The biggest spend in the budget for Keppel is \$9.35 million as part of the \$25 million Yeppoon Foreshore Revitalisation Plan which will create 680 jobs during construction.

Emu Park will receive an injection of \$1.8 million to upgrade Emu Park's Main Beach to provide drawcard tourism facilities.

At the 2015 State election I promised \$250,000 towards upgrades at Emu Park's Main Beach. I'm proud to have delivered funding more than 7 times my election commitment to improve amenity on Emu Park's main beach foreshore.

The Yeppoon Sewage Treatment Plant also receives \$5 million towards an essential upgrade critical to the growth of the town.

Health also received a significant boost including \$310,000 towards non-clinical support services to people with mental illness, their carers and families.

\$5.5 million is dedicated to assist local people with a disability and their families to access the support and services they need as they move through the different stages of their life and transitioning to the National Disability Insurance Service providers.

The Palaszczuk Government has further invested in the key issue of child safety with some \$6 million towards a wide range of programmes focusing on out-of-home care placement to ensure children and young people in need of protection are supported and safe.

Keppel parents with children 0-5 years will benefit from funds to the Yeppoon and Emu Park libraries to support parents in their child's emergent literacy development.

We're also boosting building with an extension of the \$20,000 first home buyers grant, and the extension of the successful Back to Work project and Back to Work Youth Boost for long-term unemployed.

This Budget also delivers record health and education funding as well as the greatest investment in child safety in a decade.

Mister Speaker, two years ago Labor said we would not sell our income-generating assets and we have kept our promise, with our assets remaining in safe hands and contributing to our economic growth, delivering jobs and services for Queenslanders.

Stanwell and the Gladstone Port are still there to provide the power and export capacity to keep us growing.

Because we kept ownership, we can use our assets to build infrastructure when and where we need it most especially in regional Queensland.

And, in the case of our government-owned ports like Gladstone Ports Corporation, well they are helping set export records.

Building our role as a great trading state unafraid to tackle often difficult world markets and generate valuable income to fuel further growth.

All of our government-owned businesses are generating revenue for Queenslanders not sending it beyond our borders into the pockets of private shareholders.

Queenslanders can see the returns once again in this Budget in the form of better frontline services and job-creating capital works.

We promised to drive down debt and we've delivered.

We have implemented a clear economic plan to strengthen and grow our regional, and state economies and deliver jobs.

As a result, our \$300 billion Queensland economy is growing. Confidence is up. Our unemployment rate is lower.

Our state economy is not only strong and growing, but the Australian economy would be doing far worse if not for Queensland's heavy lifting.

We said we would focus on regional economies in transition.

The past three State Budgets are packed with evidence of that commitment.

This budget eases cost of living pressures for households and small businesses.

It strengthens our social fabric.

All of this is occurring in the face of a challenging domestic and global outlook. Now that's what I call a Labor budget!



Mr McARDLE (Caloundra—LNP) (11.10 pm): Toilet paper—an analogy for Cross River Rail. This morning in the House the Minister for Health made the comment that there were differences between the ALP and the LNP. He could not have been more accurate. Let us be truthful about this. Labor has been in a coalition for many years and its partner is the unions. The unions are the senior partner of that coalition. The unions control the money into the ALP, they control the appointments of the ALP—even in this chamber—and they control the actions of the ALP. Let us be truthful. The unions control the ALP.

The contrast to the ALP could not be more stark than with us on this side of the chamber. There are two groups that I wish to emphasise that the LNP hold as critically important. The first is the family. The LNP sees the family, however we define that word, as the place where children are raised and nurtured. The family itself forms the foundation of our communities and indeed our society. Secondly, the LNP looks at the individual and private enterprise as the force of progress. The LNP sees small business as critical to Queensland and government needs to acknowledge the enormous contribution it makes to our economy.

The LNP sees these two limbs intertwined and does not hold itself bound to unions who control the very existence of the ALP and whose actions are self-serving and to the detriment of this state. It is the belief in the family and the belief in the role the family plays in Queensland society that means that

the LNP government will deal with the cost of living initially by committing to the registration of the family car being frozen for three years from 1 July 2018. As stated by the Leader of the Opposition, this will save the family with two six-cylinder cars \$200 over about three years.

Further, a LNP government will commit to attacking the cost of living if it should win the next election. This is in stark contrast to the ALP whose policies and lack of action have driven power prices up and increased registration fees. The ALP sees the family as an EFTPOS machine able to be drawn on at will. The LNP recognises the debt being levelled at Queensland taxpayers increasing to \$81 billion over the next four years as a tax on every family in this state.

Mr Power interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! Member for Logan, you are contributing significantly to the noise in this House. Could I ask you to desist, please. The member is not taking your interjections.

Mr McARDLE: This represents almost \$16,000 of debt for every man, woman and child and equates to a debt interest cost of \$3.6 billion—almost \$10 million a day. An escalation in debt and consequential escalation in debt interest costs means moneys that could be assisting families across a range of initiatives will need to be used to pay down Labor's ever increasing debt. The Labor Party never learn. It will be up to the LNP yet again to deal with the disaster they leave behind. When one considers the actions of the ALP government, including raiding the superannuation funds and long service leave entitlements of public servants, we see a desperate government. There are no more rainbows left for Labor to chase down. We are, in fact, heading for financial bleakness and this downward spiral will continue to hamper governments of the future providing even more assistance and benefit to families.

As Tim Nicholls indicated and made it quite clear, the expenses outlined by the Treasurer in the budget are locked in, but revenue growth is based on factors many of which are outside the control of the government. The claim by Labor that two surpluses will occur is not based upon reality, but on expectations that are wildly hopeful and dangerously erratic. The ultimate outcome is also reliant upon the general incompetence of all Labor governments which fail to provide, firstly, the incentive and, secondly, the knowledge as to how to financially deliver for the state.

This budget, with its wildly optimistic forecast and its radical splurge across the state without fully understanding the implications, reminds me of the Bligh-Fraser budgets of 2010 and 2011 when money was splashed across Queensland in an endeavour to recover lost ground as the people of Queensland had lost confidence in the worst government in this state's history. There is a scent to this government and they are following a similar path. There is a sense of desperation.

As I said, the second topic is the importance of the individual and private enterprise. We on this side of the House unashamedly support small business throughout the state. In 2014-15 small businesses contributed \$100 billion to gross state production and employed 43 per cent of private sector workers. The Reserve Bank of Australia estimated that in 2011 small business accounted for 96 per cent of all businesses, 47 per cent of all employment and 35 per cent of total value added in Australia. Small business is the engine of the state, indeed the engine of the nation. It is by working in conjunction with them that we will turn Queensland around and develop it into the powerhouse we know it should be.

With that in mind, it is important to remember the commitments of the Leader of the Opposition in his budget reply speech. They included a reduction in red tape by 20 per cent over six years. Red tape stifles business. It hampers production, it hampers growth and, as a consequence, it hampers the economy of Queensland. We have committed to a market-led proposal to develop a Brisbane Education and Entertainment Precinct which will provide another incentive to the economy of the south-east corner, creating thousands of jobs, enhancing the use of technology and increasing business opportunities. It is also important to remember the new deal for regional Queensland and here I want to highlight the \$500 million Royalties for the Regions infrastructure projects. Never forget that the LNP did this before when it was in government. We have a history of making it work and we can make it work and happen again. In addition, we will put in place a 10-year action plan to improve the Bruce Highway. Again, we did it before and we can and will do it again. The LNP will commit to building dams for water security which will also provide crop production and enhanced economic growth.

All these initiatives mean the regions and, indeed, the south-east corner will benefit from better roads, service delivery and local infrastructure, growing the economy so important to our state. These initiatives will assist the mums and dads of Queensland to develop their business, their family and their own future. Let us consider the reality of small business. We can look at figures but we can never forget

that small business are mums and dads, they are next-door neighbours and operate in Cairns, Townsville, Bundaberg, Mount Isa, Dirranbandi and elsewhere. The owners have children who attend local schools, they run the local P&C or P&F, they volunteer for local community based organisations, they assist at the tuck shop, they take their children to and from school and they buy their goods and services on a local basis. It is to these people that the budget reply speech is in part targeted. It is acknowledging the fact that their input into this state is important to the LNP. It acknowledges that in working with them we can develop their desires and, as such, our society.

I mentioned earlier the commitment the LNP has to the family and to small business and that they are interwoven in many cases. They are often one in the same and the fulfilment of their lives is something that the LNP is strongly committed to.

I refer to the budget as it relates to Caloundra. In the past I have described Caloundra as an area of the Sunshine Coast growing and developing. It is home to thousands of families and many small businesses, but it is more than that. It is an area in transition. It is an area that has seen enormous growth in population with Aura now developing with some 1,200 to 1,800 people per year moving into the area. Palmview is being constructed, and potentially Beerwah East is being developed. All this leads to the inevitable and urgent necessity for road and rail infrastructure development. Regrettably, there is no reference in the budget papers to the duplication of the rail line between Beerburrum and Nambour. We see no upgrade to the Caloundra Road and Nicklin Way intersection. We saw nothing to cater for the ongoing and emerging health needs of Caloundra and its regional residents with the provision of an urgent care centre at Caloundra Hospital. We see a lack of interest in terms of the Mooloolah Community Centre being granted and extended a lease to allow for capital funding and expansion of its services. We saw nothing highlighting the Caloundra Road congestion or, as they call it, the longest carpark on the Sunshine Coast. Those failings will hamstring Caloundra, because infrastructure has not been put in place.

All those issues are important as they all bear upon the families and businesses of Caloundra and are essential to develop the area. The Beerburrum to Nambour duplication is essential and is part of a transport system required to move people across and out of the region to Brisbane and further north. The question of the Caloundra Road and Nicklin Way intersection is well known to residents of Caloundra. The longest carpark on the Sunshine Coast will only get worse and the inability of this government to comprehend the congestion on that road together with growth and rising population heading to the best beaches on the Sunshine Coast—all at Caloundra—highlights the necessity for the infrastructure.

It is not simply about being stuck in traffic or being unable to get from A to B safely and quickly: it is about the lost productivity of employees, employers, truck drivers, taxidriviers or mums and dads who go shopping and who all lose time. If getting goods to a store, getting to a business appointment, getting to work or getting to construction sites are delayed, ultimately production time is lost and productivity falls. This impacts the economy and the viability of small business.

Labor's failure to recognise the need for an urgent care centre at Caloundra Hospital is a blight on the health minister. As I explained, the population in the surrounding region continues to grow with mums and dads with young families, middle-aged couples and retirees making Caloundra their home. I have no problem in accepting that the new public hospital at Kawana will treat those very ill or badly injured and that we can rely upon the expertise of QAS paramedics to deal with those patients, but the proposal at Caloundra offers to treat only minor injuries or illnesses and only between 9 am and 9 pm. What happens at 9.10 pm when a grandmother has a child who suffers a bad asthma attack? She has the right to expect the local hospital to provide proper and efficient treatment. It should not be up to the grandmother; it should be an obligation that rests with the government. The government has walked away from this obligation, turning its back yet again on Caloundra. Over the next few years we will see thousands more people move into Aura and Palmview, putting more and more pressure on our health system. It was only five or six years ago that \$11.5 million was spent by a Labor government on upgrading the Caloundra ED. That money has been thrown away to the detriment of Caloundra residents. This again highlights Labor's inability to plan for growth or need.

The member for Clayfield concluded his speech by discussing the history of Labor and by highlighting the payroll debacle that cost \$1.2 billion to the public purse. Yes, the health minister has uttered words of apology, yet he was in this chamber when the disaster broke. I do not recall him standing in the House at that time offering his apologies. At the time I do not recall him acknowledging the pain suffered by nurses and their families. I do not recall his accepting responsibility for the actions of the government in which he was a minister. One can imagine it would have been discussed in cabinet,

but the minister was mute. Hear no evil, see no evil, speak no apology. Only in hindsight did he find his voice. Only when the main players are no longer in the House did we hear the words. His words would have carried greater weight if they had been made at the time and not in hindsight.

The 2017-18 Labor budget fails to provide for the needs of families and small business. Only the LNP can provide for the future with a plan that encompasses the needs of both families and small business. The LNP will build Queensland again and will not forget the families and businesses that made this state great.

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (11.25 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Appropriation Bill. I wish to talk about small business. I think I am an expert on small business as I have been in small business all my life and have had a lot of small businesses. The only time I have ever lost money in small business is when the mob on the other side was in government. If we talk about small business when John Howard came into power, it was probably the worst time I ever had in small business. If we talk about the LNP governments of Rob Borbidge and Joan Sheldon, in that period I had an overdraft that a kangaroo could not jump over. Let us wind forward to the Newman era. We heard the member for Indooroopilly talk about small business when he was in a PR firm. He was not at the coalface talking about small business. I have had a lot of staff and a lot of small businesses in my days and every time an LNP government came into power I would shudder, because it was an attack on workers and small business. They talk the talk but they do not walk the walk.

A government member interjected.

Mr SAUNDERS: Absolutely. I see the member for Everton and his mouth dropping open as it did when he was a referee. The member was one of the worst referees in Australia. Has he ever been in small business? When he was a referee, he cost me a lot of money because he was a terrible referee. Any time those opposite talk about looking after small business, I absolutely go into the foetal position because I worry about their getting hold again of the treasury benches.

This budget is a great Labor traditional budget. When members opposite were in power they talked about the four pillars but they absolutely cut down the four pillars. They talked about the Roman Empire but demolished the four pillars. When in government we talk about the four pillars: housing, education, jobs and health care. They are the four pillars of a traditional Labor government and this is what the Pitt budget delivers for this state in 2017.

I wish to talk about my electorate. I see the member for Woodridge, the health minister, in the House tonight. I congratulate him on behalf of my electorate, because there is a \$57.4 million increase for the Wide Bay Health District. I thank the minister, because the federal government has cut \$53 million a year over the next 10 years from our budget, but a Labor government has provided a 10 per cent increase. I thank the minister, because this is a traditional Labor government. We are looking after the people.

In 2015 when I came to office in Maryborough, at my local hospital we had no pathology, one could not get a band-aid and it had been run down in the three years of a Newman government. Staff morale was at the lowest levels one had ever seen. Since we have been in government, the number of front-line troops has increased and pathology has been restored. Not only that, but the hospital is back and building. There was a \$10 million investment in the accident and emergency, something which we looked forward to and which the minister delivered. The minister has visited the hospital three times and talked to the staff. I have had great conversations with the minister. That is what a Labor government does. Ministers come and talk to constituents and members and they deliver. All the other mob did was cut, cut, cut. 'Jack the Slasher': that is what they were. They cut services and they cut staff. Not once in the three years of the Newman government did a minister visit Maryborough city and talk about something they were doing: All they talked about was cut, cut, cut—

Mr Mander: I came up there.

Mr SAUNDERS: Of course you did, and every time you came up you cut staff. This is a great budget. One of the things that I am excited about is education funding. The education minister has been absolutely fantastic. The only way to lift areas is by investing in education. That is something that this traditional Labor government does.

I will go through what is in the budget for the great seat of Maryborough. It is one of the oldest seats in the state. Maryborough has been a state seat since 1865. It is a fantastic seat. When a Labor government has been in power that is when we have seen Maryborough go ahead. 2017 is a great year for the electorate of Maryborough.

Through school infrastructure funding there is \$250,000 for an upgrade of the modular outdoor learning area at the Tinana State School. This is on top of \$1 million for a music hall that was promised by those opposite and never delivered. There is \$250,000 for Parke State School. Parke State School is one of the oldest schools in my electorate. It has been there for a long time. That \$250,000 is going to go a long way.

There is \$200,000 to refurbish blocks C and D at Central State School. Central State School is a great school in my electorate. It used to be called Newtown State School but is now called Central State School. It is absolutely fantastic to get that money from the education minister. There is \$120,000 to upgrade the sports complex at Maryborough West State School.

These schools had no money during the three years of the Newman experiment. They had nothing. They were cut, cut, cut. There is \$120,000 to refurbish the multipurpose courts at Torbanlea State School. Torbanlea is a great part of my electorate. It is an old coalmining area. It is a fantastic area. It is known as the Burrum district. To get \$120,000 for that school is absolutely fantastic.

There is \$80,000 for Maryborough State High School to do a block up for hairdressing studies and a few other things that the principal of that school uses it for. We have fought hard for that funding and got it. There is also \$4.5 million for a performing arts hall. Maryborough State High School has not had a brand new building since 1955. We are delivering \$4.5 million for that hall. The high school has partnered with USC to do creative arts at the school. This has lifted the Maryborough community. We are seeing this because this is a traditional Labor government. There is another \$60,000 for Maryborough West State School. These are just some of the things that are happening in my electorate.

Under the three years of the previous government all we were told in Maryborough was cut, cut, cut—we cannot afford it. We have paid down debt. General government debt is \$14 billion lower than under those opposite. We have increased our education budget. We have increased the number of teachers. We have increased front-line services at our hospitals. We have a pathology service and a new accident and emergency department coming. The hospital is a very good hospital thanks to the Labor government. This Labor government is restoring services.

Let us talk about roadworks. We have heard those opposite bleat about roadworks. Members know when a government is doing well when constituents come in and tell them, 'You are doing too many roadworks. Cut it out. You are doing too much, brother.' Those opposite never had that problem.

This budget is really putting Maryborough back on the map. Maryborough is a proud city. It was brought to its knees by those opposite. With a traditional Labor government a working class area like Maryborough has come back. We have seen funding for health care, education and roadworks and are seeing jobs created. We have seen the Palaszczuk Labor government invest in jobs with Downer EDI, MSF and Heinz. We have seen this government reinvest in regional Queensland.

I would like to ask those opposite how much money they reinvested into areas like Maryborough. All they did was chop, chop, chop. We have heard the ads for a well-known supermarket which says the prices are down, down, down. That is what was happening to my community under the LNP—it was going down, down, down.

Those opposite say in this House that the community wants the LNP back. I can tell them that Maryborough does not want the LNP back. They will never forgive the LNP for what they have done to our great community. It will never happen. I invite members opposite instead of having their champagne lunches and lattes to get out and talk to the real people on the streets. They will tell them that they do not want anything to do with the LNP. They know that every time the LNP come into power it means that their mates suck on the taxpayers' teat. That is what happens. Public money goes into private pockets all the time. It never goes back to where it should.

This is the third budget of the Palaszczuk Labor government. When I look around my city and my electorate at the roadworks, the hospitals, the schools and the things that have been done I am very proud to say that this is a great Labor government. It is a fantastic Labor government.

Mr Pegg: And you are delivering.

Mr SAUNDERS: I will take that interjection from the member for Stretton. We are delivering for Queenslanders. In 2½ years we have delivered more in Queensland than they did. All they did was cut, cut, cut. Some 2½ years ago everyone in Maryborough used to walk around looking down at the footpath because of the actions of the LNP. Now they are looking forward and have their heads held high. They know that they can go to their local hospital and get services. They know that their children are going to be educated. They know there is the prospect of jobs on the horizon.

They also know with the great housing policy that we have announced that there is going to be social housing for people in my electorate who cannot afford it. That is the difference that they see with this government. All those opposite did was turn people away. They would say to people who needed social housing, 'Sorry, unfortunately, we cannot help you.' It was absolutely shameful.

What drove me to get back into politics was the way the opposition treated people in Queensland. I grew up in the west and we had a saying that some in the LNP used to treat their cattle better than they treated people. That happened in Maryborough. This budget is fantastic for Maryborough. 2017 is a great year for the electorate of Maryborough. I thank the Palaszczuk Labor government for that.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Albert—LNP) (11.36 pm): I have never heard so many fake finishes to a speech and the word 'fantastic' used so many times.

Mr Pegg: Were you looking in the mirror?

Mr BOOTHMAN: The member for Stretton had better pay attention.

Mr Cramp: Get your crayons out and your butcher's paper.

Mr BOOTHMAN: Get your butcher's paper and crayons out. I rise tonight to make a contribution to the debate on the Palaszczuk government's third budget. This year we are seeing huge changes to the electoral boundaries on the northern Gold Coast and the renaming of the Albert electorate to Theodore. Regardless of the name, I am certainly committed to fighting for our fair share of infrastructure and services for my region. Unfortunately this budget has left most of my community wanting.

I am a Queenslanders, born and bred. The new electorate of Theodore and current electorate of Albert is a place where my wife, my three children and I are proud to call home. We have deep connections with our local community. Whether it is in our street, our suburb or our region we want to see this area continue to be the best place in which to live and raise a family.

This budget certainly deeply saddens me. With no rectification of the 30,000 jobs disappearing from Queensland last year—the worst year on record—unemployment at 6.4 per cent in April, the second worst unemployment rate in the country, is there any wonder the greatest risk facing Queenslanders is the lack of job security and this Labor government? This so-called job focused government is only focused on one thing—their own jobs. Their own figures suggest unemployment across Queensland will remain high. Youth unemployment is ballooning in parts of Queensland. There has been little or no action by this stagnant Palaszczuk government to correct this situation.

Business investment has been falling and is forecast to remain stalled this year, sending clear signals that business confidence in this state has plummeted. The state's forecast economic growth has been slashed. This has translated to 85,000 fewer jobs. This is a direct result of this Labor government's failure to handle the economy. Debt will continue to rise over the next four years by \$9 billion, up to \$81 billion. With an interest bill of \$3.6 billion, think of how many schools, how many bridges, how many motorways, how many hospitals and how many rail lines we could build with all of that money—the direct result of 20 years of Labor mismanagement.

The Palaszczuk government slashed infrastructure spending in their first budget by almost \$2 billion. Since that first budget, infrastructure spending has never recovered. The northern Gold Coast has continued to suffer from extensive traffic congestion, especially around the M1 motorway interchanges. Many times in this chamber the member for Coomera and I have spoken about the dangerous situations created by vehicles queuing back onto the M1 motorway whilst trying to exit at off-ramps. Exit 49, exit 45 north, exit 41 and exit 38 all suffer queuing back onto the motorway. This places stationary vehicles within centimetres of vehicles continuing to travel down the M1 motorway at 110 kilometres per hour. One can only conclude that this budget is nothing more than pork-barrelling for Labor seats as it ignores Gold Coast motorists, placing them in certain danger. The question therefore needs to be asked: what has happened to the design works to upgrade these interchanges or will this be a review that will never see the light of day?

A recent news article pointed out that the M1 motorway is quickly reaching its capacity. The *Gold Coast Bulletin* understands that the tipping point is 170,000 vehicles daily. The current usage is 144,437 vehicles daily. Every time we have an accident the traffic in my region goes into meltdown, further highlighting that Labor continues to ignore the needs of the northern Gold Coast.

The M1 motorway exit 57 is reaching its capacity and desperately needs a solution. Residents are subjected to long queues during peak hour traffic. This is further exacerbated by the closure of the John Muntz Bridge due to a recent flood event. This is creating long delays for residents wishing to drop their children off at the local schools, for residents heading to work and for businesses desperately

trying to get goods and services to and from the area. I have continued to push this government into action to have the connection road of the John Muntz Bridge repaired quickly. A recent article in the *Gold Coast Bulletin* on 13 May 2017 stated—

* Consultants believe the bridge and also large sections of the riverbank near homes are in danger of ruin.

...

In a letter to Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk, Albert MP Mark Boothman said consultants who inspected the stretch from the old quarry site to the pony club and bridge found extensive erosion.

"In particular, the Coomera River is trying to create a new river channel through the pony club fields," Mr Boothman wrote.

In reply, the Minister for Main Roads said, 'Mark Boothman needs to let the experts get on with the job instead of continually trying to use the bridge for political point scoring.' In a letter from the Premier dated 26 May 2017, the Premier agreed with me. She wrote—

Thank you for your letter of 27 April 2017 regarding the bank erosion in the Coomera River, near the Oxford Pony Club.

I acknowledge your concerns around the potential for further erosion, and associated risks to the structural integrity of nearby infrastructure. I agree that sensible options for riverine protection and road network safety should be properly considered.

The letter goes on to say—

Again, thank you for bringing this important issue to my attention.

Even the Premier thinks I am doing a great job as the local member, not that I rely on her judgement, but I will take the compliment anyway. I table the letter.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 26 May 2017, from the Premier and Minister for the Arts, Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk, to the member for Albert, Mr Mark Boothman MP, regarding bank erosion in the Coomera River [\[999\]](#).

All I ask is that the minister does his job and I will represent the views of my local residents of Albert and Theodore. I will continue to hold ministers to account for the best outcomes for my local area.

Residents of Highland Reserve are still waiting for a crossing guard for Highland Way. The only response this government has given residents is that it is on a priority list. Therefore, I ask the Minister for Main Roads: how long is his priority list? To put this in context, Highland Way is a main thoroughfare for the Highland Reserve area and is used as a shortcut for many motorists in the local area. This places children trying to cross this road unassisted by parents in a precarious situation. Stop playing politics and fund a crossing guard before a child is injured.

Gaven State School, similar to many other schools throughout my region, is bursting at the seams with the increase in population. It is converting storage rooms into learning classrooms and extending the administration building so it can double as a storage facility. In addition, Helensvale State High School is continuing to be subjected to enormous growth. To cater for this growth, we desperately need additional facilities at this school and to upgrade some of the older facilities. Park Lake State School needs a dedicated science room to enhance STEM learning, but all of these issues have been ignored in this budget.

Labor's softly, softly approach to law and order is causing much concern to residents of the northern Gold Coast. Residents are still crying out for more police. We are home to some of the fastest growing regions in Australia, with some areas growing at 20 per cent per year. With such growth comes the need for more police. Numerous times in this chamber the member for Gaven, Sid Cramp; the member for Coomera, Michael Crandon; and I have continued to plead to the minister for our fair share of police resources.

The Coomera Valley Rural Fire Brigade have outgrown their current facilities at Gawler Place and do not have the capacity to store the equipment they desperately need. The department of communities currently owns land within the local vicinity which would make an ideal location for a new home for them and to expand the rural fire brigade. Furthermore, there is sufficient land to house a future State Emergency Service unit to allow cross training of both services. From time to time, individual services may not have enough volunteers to conduct an operation but, with joint training and cross-service development, this will go a long way to resolving this issue. However, there is nothing in this budget to rectify this after numerous communications to the minister's office.

In summary, this budget does little to help the residents of Albert and especially the new electorate of Theodore, but I will continue to fight for the necessary infrastructure for our region and for the services we need. Only the LNP will create jobs across Queensland and better manage our

finances. Only the LNP will build stronger families. Only the LNP will provide safe and livable communities. Only the LNP will build the roads, bridges and dams we need. Only the LNP will deliver better government, not more government.

 **Hon. WS BYRNE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Economic Development) (11.46 pm): It is with great pride and conviction that I rise to commend the Treasurer on a budget that backs Labor's vision and reforming zeal and continues to provide support to our agricultural producers and the bush. It is, without doubt, a budget that only a Labor government could deliver as it has at its core a progressive agenda of reform to support rural communities and economies, to create jobs and to seize opportunities.

This morning we heard some promises from a contrite and shamefaced Leader of the Opposition. He said that there would be no forced redundancies under the Liberal National Party. I thought to myself the trouble is that I have heard that before. If we look back to 22 March 2012, two days before the 2012 election, the member for Clayfield put on the table the election costings from the Liberal National Party and an article in the *Brisbane Times* stated, 'He promised there would be no forced redundancies under an LNP government.' That is the same language that we have heard again here this morning. If he is to be believed, the 14,000 public servants that the Liberal National Party made disappear were all volunteers—the kind of volunteers that get frogmarched from their buildings by burley security guards. That is the calibre of the promises we hear from the Leader of the Opposition. What we have heard so far here this evening is slogans, and that is what we heard during his speech. It has felt like déjà vu this morning and this afternoon. Even one of the members opposite earlier this evening used the language 'back on track', which was a mantra, a slogan, trotted out by the Liberal National Party.

This morning the Leader of the Opposition promised that a future government that he was in charge of would not sell assets. The trouble is that we have heard all of that before as well. I remember the pre-election Strong Choices program. Here we have a copy of it. What is on the front of this publication? 'No asset sales.' It is the same language that we have seen over the last umpteen years from the Liberal National Party and the Leader of the Opposition—no asset sales, no forced redundancies. The people of Queensland know exactly what to expect from the mob opposite. Supposedly, that has all gone away now. Well, it is exactly the same language. Leopards do not change their spots.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BYRNE: Listen to them. They are exactly the same: a whingeing, whining mob across the chamber.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Elmes): Order! Those on my left!

Mr BYRNE: There is a con going on, as has been commented on by those opposite. It is an LNP con. It is exactly the same language repeated. It is like nothing has happened over the last five years. The mantras are exactly the same. They promised that they would bring down the cost of living in 2012. They promised they would cut power prices. They promised they would reduce debt. They did the same thing and had the same mantra as Tony Abbott, with the same result. How did it all work out? Well, not too well at all—in fact, none of those promises were delivered in any way, shape or form.

A promise from the Leader of the Opposition is like a snowball in a furnace: prone to instant evaporation once the heat is turned on. I remember the promise of an unemployment rate of four per cent. It never even approached heading in a downward direction. That is what Queenslanders have to look forward to—this sort of mantra and sloganic nonsense.

It must have been tough for the Leader of the Opposition this morning. He wants to be an economic rationalist, because that is what his language is about, but he does not have the ticker to stand up and prosecute it. He has the ideology and argument of an economic rationalist. He cannot admit it publicly anymore. He does not have the ticker either to come out and be a National Party member; to come out and say that he is an out-and-out agrarian socialist. He does not have the numbers on that side of parliament to stand up and repudiate the stupidity of the National Party agenda that is prosecuted by the likes of Barnaby Joyce.

This is a fantastic budget for agriculture. It is a confirmatory budget that cements the policies and commitments Labor took to the 2015 election.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BYRNE: They do not like it much, do they? They want to keep rabbiting on. They have not laid a glove on anyone so far in this debate. It is important to remember that we set out with a very clear agenda in 2015. We laid out a food and fibre policy. We have consistently gone about delivering on that, and this budget confirms those commitments.

This morning the member for Hinchinbrook asked a question at the end of question time. He tried to make out that there had been a cut to the agricultural budget. Other members, including the shadow spokesman, stood up and made the same assertions. As usual with the Liberal National Party, they are completely false. Let me be clear about this: there are no cuts to people. There are no cuts to services. There are no cuts to resources whatsoever. Yet repeatedly numerous Liberal National Party members in the opposition have stood up and proved once again for the third time in a row that they cannot read an SDS. They cannot work out what is in the budget papers. They have no idea what they are talking about in terms of real allocations or real resources.

Again, as with the previous two budgets, those opposite cannot interpret any of the meaningful documentation. I suppose we already knew that because we saw it when they were in government. They could not even understand their own SDSs. After all, they are only really experienced in opposition. The last time they were in government it did not go too well. We all know that and we know the reasons why.

As I said, it is a confirmatory budget. What are the sorts of things that Labor have delivered? Firstly, we have sorted out the bovine Johne's disease issue. We sorted out the shemozzle we inherited when we came to government when we finalised the appropriate payments to impacted producers after what had been nearly 2½ years of vacillation and weakness from the Liberal National Party. We acted immediately and we acted in support of those affected producers who had been hung out to dry by the Liberal National Party. It was a moral obligation and one that was beyond those opposite.

We landed and negotiated a consistent BJD management approach consistent with the national arrangements—again, something that those opposite could not even mention because they had no idea what to do. It was the Labor Party that landed the tick line. After years of vacillation and weakness from those opposite, we got the result. We got the thing done. We landed it. What did those opposite do? They did nothing.

It was the Labor Party that doubled the cash contribution to Beef Australia. What did we get from those opposite after three years in government? We got words, vacillation and absolutely nothing. It was the Labor Party that delivered intergenerational farm transfers. That is what we did. They have been talking about it for years. They had three years and did nothing. It was the Labor Party that maintained an increased drought assistance package. It was the Labor Party that delivered on biosecurity capability reviews and funded the implementation of those review recommendations. We did not cut 26 per cent out of biosecurity staffing in Queensland. That is the opposition's legacy.

It was the Labor Party that delivered a coherent, sustainable fisheries strategy. The LNP in their period commissioned the MRAG report. They were so weak—so spineless—they could not even release it and put it in the too-hard basket. Before the last election they were sitting on this report and could not even put it out into the public domain. Spineless, weak vacillation is the hallmark of the Liberal National Party in government.

It was the Labor Party that gave sheep producers the tools to break the back of the dog scourge in Western Queensland and south-western Queensland. It was the Labor Party, not the Liberal National Party. These are just a few examples of the successes of Labor in government in agriculture. We support agricultural producers despite public comments from time to time because they know that they will always get a better deal from us than they ever got from the three years of the Newman era—a better deal in every respect from the Labor Party for our rural producers.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BYRNE: If those opposite do not believe me, go to Longreach or any of those western communities and mention the name Campbell Newman. Try that on for size and see how you go. For the record, for the member for Hinchinbrook's question, page 18 of the agriculture and fisheries service delivery statement explains this: there is a reduction in expenses for the containment of white spot disease—these are the numbers he was talking about—in the budget held centrally by government for the continuation of the drought assistance package in 2017-18 and reduced expenses for various limited life funded initiatives including the Panama Tropical Race 4 and Australian government funded pest and weed initiatives.

Those explanatory notes in the budget papers make it absolutely clear where those expense numbers are at. Also contributing to the apparent decrease is the cessation of the current national cost-sharing funding agreement for the national red imported fire ant eradication program. Those notes are clearly there in the budget papers. To suggest that there has been some wilful reduction in the agricultural budget is complete and utter falsehood. It is a misleading of the House. It is a deliberate attempt to make stuff up. I do not mind having a debate about facts or evidence or truth, but just stick

to the facts if you are going to talk about policy or budget rather than just making things up out of thin air. The facts are that there is no reduction in funding. There is no reduction in staffing. Twenty-six per cent of the staff of Biosecurity have not been wiped out, which is the legacy of those opposite. There is none of that stuff so let us just stick to the facts.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr BYRNE: I can assure the House that there are no cuts to any element of the department. In fact, the department is growing. We will be boosting job creation in the agricultural sector. We are promoting exports of Queensland produce. We are transforming management of our fisheries. We are doing something to protect the Great Barrier Reef. We are doing something to help the producers along the coast adapt to changing harsh climate conditions and meet their broader obligations to the community and to Queensland. We are doing something about all of the weeds and diseases that threaten these businesses. That is evident.

This budget backs the Palaszczuk government's fundamental belief in research, consultation and science, and the measures we have introduced over the previous two budgets to restore services and embrace positive change for our producers. It also continues to support those who fall victim to Queensland's climate. There is a \$424.7 million investment in food and fibre, and a host of specific initiatives to back the sector that has proved to be uniquely resilient in the face of extreme weather and biosecurity threats.

While I cannot contain my enthusiasm about the impact of the budget and what it will do for primary producers, I want to take this opportunity to also mention some of the things this budget is doing in my electorate and Central Queensland more broadly. There are 3,200 jobs in Central Queensland coming directly from this budget, with \$788 million on infrastructure, \$566 million on health and \$25 million on maintenance and capital works projects for schools. The total allocation for Rockhampton in 2017-18 exceeds \$250 million. That is real money on real projects that will bring real benefits to the local economy.

What a contrast to the bucketloads of nothing we received in Rockhampton in the three years of the previous government when the purse strings were held by the Leader of the Opposition. What we have heard from members over there is a lot of nonsense. I was here when the opposition were in government and I know exactly what they did. I know exactly what pork-barrelling is when it is taken to the nth degree. I was here, I saw it, I witnessed it. I went through three estimates and I know exactly what their form is. The LNP treated Rockhampton and most regional centres, and particularly Labor electorates, with absolute contempt.

There is \$53 million in our budget for the upgrade of the Stanwell Power Station. There is \$21 million for duplicating the Capricorn Highway at Gracemere. I spoke about that matter when I was sitting over there four years ago. Vaughan Johnson came over and backed me and said that we should do that, but it took four years and a Labor government to get it done. There is \$12 million to restore and repair our courthouse. There is \$6.6 million to complete construction of the new multistorey car park, which I have been on about for five years—a project that is 75 per cent funded by the Palaszczuk government. There is \$8.1 million to upgrade the hospital's high voltage network. There is \$500,000 to start the \$5 million refurbishment of the Rockhampton Ambulance Station and so forth.

One issue that is very important to me is the relocation of the art gallery in Rockhampton. It is the most spectacular regional exhibition of art probably in Australia and I will be very proud to be part of it when it is finally displayed in what will be a fantastic new art gallery. When we add to that a few million more on maintenance in schools, we can see that it has been a fantastic budget for Central Queensland. It has been a long time coming, given what we put up with for three years from those opposite.

The final point is that this budget is incredibly important for rural and regional Queensland. There is no doubt that we have an excellent reputation and our agricultural sectors generally are going extremely well. The numbers that are coming through on Agtrends data, as I have reflected on before, are extremely positive. This government has set about making sure we can do those things that establish stability and establish a trajectory that gives all sectors the best chance of going forward.

We have put money into our Rural Economies Centre of Excellence. We have put money into reputational promotion issues for many of our peak bodies because that is what they have asked for. They have come to us and said that they would like to engage and be involved in the marketing, sale and promotion of their products. They want a direct hand in that. Most of these allocations in rural economic development are directly as a result of approaches from peak bodies and leaders in industry. We have listened to those and we have tried to make sure we give them an appropriate start-up amount

of money to get these measures in place. They will be effective because industry is engaging on it and we are supporting industry on that. As I said, we are also establishing the Rural Economies Centre of Excellence to undertake integrated research and specialised programs to help rural communities grow and create employment opportunities. That will be supported by \$3 million over three years. Institutions, including universities, will be invited to host the centre.

In the few minutes I have left, I would like to reflect on a few things. I have already spoken about our sustainable fisheries policy which I think will stand the test of time. I want to talk very quickly about the strategy and how it has been received. I have received numerous phone calls from stakeholders from all sectors, whether it is recreational, academic institutions, conservation movements or commercial fishermen. A number of commercial fishermen have called me privately after having read in detail our future vision for fisheries management in Queensland, and all of those who have called me have been very, very, very supportive of where we are heading. They know full well that that fisheries management strategy and the money we are putting into fisheries—which is \$20 million of new money on top of some money that has been reallocated within the department—will give us a 20 per cent increase in fisheries officers and an enormously greater capacity to engage with the stakeholders in what will be a world-class fisheries management structure and fisheries management strategy.

I have deliberately crafted this to make sure it passed any sensible scrutiny. It will pass the test of time. In 10 years time, people will see the results of this strategy, if it is executed as it is intended. It will be a major shift in the way in which we manage fisheries in this state. Anyone with the slightest appreciation of fisheries should understand the significance of it. The budget brings that additional money and the 20 per cent more staff in Fisheries for enforcement and education, and this is an incredibly significant contribution from a Labor government. It stands in stark contrast to anything that those opposite have ever attempted to do.

In summary, this is a great budget for agriculture, it is a great budget for regional Queensland and it is a great budget for rural Queensland. It confirms the actions that this government has taken in deliberate policy terms over the last three years. Our actions stand in marked contrast to the failed efforts and vacuous nonsense that we heard from those opposite over the three years of their government. I look forward to taking these policies in this budget to the people of Queensland. I know they will support them wholeheartedly, as I do.

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (12.06 am): I listened intently to the member for Rockhampton just then but, unfortunately, I did not hear anything about the prawn farmers on the Logan River and any support from the state government in relation to their plight. There was not one word about the white spot disease and the devastation that has occurred.

What a disappointment the Queensland Treasurer is. He must be a disappointment to his mother as well; I am absolutely certain of it. Back in 2015, I spoke to him about the funding package for exit 54. I know he will recall that I said that the funding was in place. In fact, at the time he said words to the effect, 'If the funding is there, then the project will proceed.' Well, the funding was there. The deputy premier in that LNP government, Jeff Seeney, made sure that it was there and the then treasurer, Tim Nicholls, announced exit 54 would be constructed. Of course, the current Deputy Premier then went through the charade of reannouncing it but that is okay. Over the last almost 2½ years, Labor have been handing in our homework so that is nothing new.

Labor followed through with the LNP's plans, thankfully, for new schools and additional classrooms in existing schools in the Coomera electorate. Something that the LNP government put in place was followed through on—once again, they are doing our homework. It was a common-sense approach. We put the plans in place for the Treasurer and all he had to do was follow them. Well done, Treasurer; he can follow a plan that has been done for him and put in place for him.

However, I go back to what I said at the beginning: what a disappointment the Treasurer is to all of us. He has to be able to develop his own plans to succeed. He cannot just keep pinching other people's plans and ideas. This is the Treasurer's third budget and he has learnt absolutely nothing. I can tell him that the northern Gold Coast is the fastest growing region in Queensland and probably Australia. I will say that again slowly—the northern Gold Coast is the fastest growing region in Queensland and probably Australia. That is why we have had seven new schools in six years, and that is why two more schools are on the drawing board for completion in 2018 and 2019. This is all part of the planning we did when in government.

Those schools are there to accommodate the burgeoning population of students. The Treasurer must realise—and I am not sure that he does—that when students move in to an area they bring their parents with them. I know the ministers for transport, both old and new, do not understand that. I know

the Minister for Main Roads does not understand that, either. I take that facial interjection from the Leader of the House who seems to be saying, 'Who? Me?' Absolutely! He is the old transport minister. If students move into an area, they bring their parents with them. If that is not a trigger for those opposite to understand, there are a few other tells that they can add to it.

First of all, as at 31 May, the Coomera electorate has 45,849 voters, which is over 31 per cent more than the average or about 63 per cent more than when I came in as the first member for Coomera in 2009. Indeed, in the past almost 2½ years, we have seen an increase in voter numbers from 39,110 in January 2015 to 45,849 as at 31 May, which is a 17 per cent plus increase in that time alone and the growth continues unabated. I table a document so that everybody can have a close look at the Electoral Commission figures as at 31 May from the 2015 state election. I table those figures so that everybody can peruse them.

Tabled paper: Electoral Commission Queensland document titled 'Current enrolment figures' [[1000](#)].

Those figures relate to voter numbers. They do not include the many thousands of adults who love living in the Coomera electorate but cannot yet vote: our friends from New Zealand, the Pacific Islands, South Africa and other parts of the world. If we have something like 27 per cent of our population aged under 15 years compared to about 19 per cent across the state, which is a 50 per cent increase, if we have the biggest electorate by voter numbers at almost 46,000 people and if we have thousands more people living in the Coomera electorate who are yet to become Australian citizens, we need a few things. We need exits 41, 45 and 49 upgraded. We need additional exits, such as the one I propose at the Pimpama River. A second exit 45 heading south would take pressure off the current exit 45, which right now is ramping back onto the M1 despite the work that was put in place in relation to traffic lights.

How about this one, old transport minister: we need reliable bus services that leave early enough and are frequent enough to get people to the train stations so that they can get to work on time. It takes about an hour to get to Brisbane. We also need bus services that run late enough so that commuters can catch a bus home after 5.30 at night. Now that is a bright idea! Of course, we need reliable bus services through the day as well. Our train station car parks are full every day. I have heard stories of commuters being unable to park so are forced to drive to work. What does that do? It puts further pressure on the M1. On the one hand, we do not have the buses in the morning to get them to the train station or in the afternoon to pick them up and take them home; on the other hand, we do not have the car parks so that people can drive to the train stations and park their cars. Can members see that there is a bit of an issue here? We need our train car parks enlarged. Doubling them would be a good start.

A government member: He's just worried about Coomera; he's not worried about the world.

Mr CRANDON: The rest of the world can look after itself. My focus is on the state seat of Coomera. I put that on the table now.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Elmes): Order! The member for Lytton and the member for Lockyer will cease interjecting across the chamber.

Mr CRANDON: We need 50 additional police at the Coomera station just to catch up with the population growth that I talked about. Remember: since I came into office, there has been a 63 per cent increase in our population. None of those things have been budgeted for by this Treasurer, which is why his mother would be absolutely disappointed with him if she knew.

I have spoken about population growth in the fastest growing region in Australia and the need for infrastructure. Further evidence is available in the ministers' offices. They can go to the ministers' offices and get the evidence. Rather than burden the parliament with reams of tabled papers, I refer the Treasurer to the Minister for Transport's office, as well as the Minister for Main Roads's office. I am sure that they keep good records. I am hoping that they always use their ministerial email address for these particular documents, so they should be found quite easily.

Mr Rickuss interjected.

Mr CRANDON: One could always jump across to that. There is a huge trail of emails going backwards and forwards between me and those ministers, duly accompanied by constituents' complaints. I will summarise the responses from the ministers to all of the emails that I have sent over the past 2½ years containing constituents' pleas for infrastructure. In a word, the answer is 'no'. They have said 'no' every single time, that is, not one new bus route, not one addition to a timetable and not one variation to a bus route.

Mr Pegg interjected.

Mr CRANDON: The member for Stretton missed what I said, which was that I am not going to burden this place by tabling all of these documents. I would be more than happy to sit down with him over a cup of coffee and show him all of the documents. He is not paying attention.

In a word, they said 'no' and they said 'no' every single time: not one new bus route, not one addition to a timetable, not one variation to a bus route, not one increase to train services—in fact, they have reduced train services in the great South-East Queensland rail fail—and not one change to an exit to relieve the dangers of ramping, with one recent exception, which I have to say is a change that has infuriated the locals. They are not happy about another traffic light being installed on one of the overpasses, which is being bragged about by the minister.

How does this do-nothing Labor government compare with the previous LNP government when it comes to providing infrastructure for the Coomera electorate? The LNP resolved the issues at exit 38 by spending several million dollars to ease access on to, off and under the M1, so gets a big tick there. We fixed that problem. We found the funding needed for exit 54, which is a big tick. The Labor government stole our homework on that one and tried to reannounce it, but nevertheless we are on the record there. We found the land required and pledged the funding for a dredge spoil facility enabling bigger vessels to come up the Coomera River to the Coomera Marine Precinct, which is a huge boost to local employment. That is a big tick. I thank former deputy premier Jeff Seeney for his efforts in that regard. We increased the bus services in the northern Gold Coast, once again getting a tick, and we increased the number of trains on the Gold Coast line by 93 per week. I repeat: we provided 93 additional trains per week, 35 of which run in peak times. That is another big tick. No longer was the Gold Coast line referred to as the 'Bombay express'. Those are a few of the important infrastructure initiatives delivered by the previous LNP government and there were many more, including, of course, the schools plan that thankfully the government is following.

I turn now to some of the more recent issues on which I have received a response from the minister, just to provide examples. I wrote to the minister—

Please refer to the attached copy of an email I received from one of my constituents ...

Currently the route 726 bus goes out and back along Colman Road. As such, there clearly is an opportunity to provide a better service as follows ...

I then presented an overview of what could be done using Ragamuffin Drive and so forth. My email continues—

These changes would enable many more residents in this fast growing area to utilise public transport, on a daily basis, without being forced to walk up to 25 minutes to a bus stop, as is currently the case.

I will read parts of the minister's response and I will table this document so that members opposite can have another look at it. It states—

TMR has advised the proposed diversion would create a loop at the end of the route resulting in increased travel times for some commuters, particularly those living on Colman Drive ...

No, it is Colman Road, not Colman Drive. Let us have a look at Colman Road. I have a few maps here that could have been googled by the department. They could have had a look at these maps and they would have found that nobody lives on Colman Road. It is not a road that people live on; it is a road that takes people to where they live. The minister has told us that it is particularly those living on Colman Road who would be put out, but there is no-one living on Colman Road. What is the problem? If we were to run the buses through Ragamuffin Drive, it would save people a 25-minute walk to Colman Road to catch the bus.

Mr Rickuss: But for buses it is a lot better when people don't get on them.

Mr CRANDON: That is a good point too. You do not have to hold them up, do you? I table these particular documents for those opposite.

Tabled paper: Correspondence regarding a bus route in Coomera and associated maps [\[1001\]](#).

It is really quite amazing that they would do that. We have another one here. I will read this as a precursor. One of my constituents wrote to me just the other day on 6 June. She has some issues around the M1 and things of that nature, but she makes some points here which are very relevant because of the letter that I received from the minister. The letter states—

The other incredibly dangerous issue is the off ramps at exits 45 and 49 ... Of an evening, there are very long queues onto the motorway, this is so so so dangerous, I hold my breath waiting for someone travelling at 110+ to run into the back of the queue.

Yes, it would be funny, wouldn't it, if somebody did get smacked up the bum? It would be an absolute scream then, wouldn't it, I say to those opposite who are having a bit of a chuckle? It continues—

This is a disaster waiting to happen. The roundabouts need updating to cope with the increased traffic.

I will read this letter that was received from the minister. Mark Boothman was kind enough to pass it on to me. It says—

... undertaking planning for the long-term upgrades of various interchanges along the M1, including Exit 38, Exit 41, Exit 45, Exit 49 and Exit 57.

The problem is that they have been doing this planning for 2½ years. How long does it take? Is it like these reports that you send away for? It continues—

This planning includes taking into consideration traffic flows through and around the interchanges, as well as connecting road planning by the City of Gold Coast council. It should be noted that there is currently no federal or state funding—

Tabled paper. Correspondence regarding queuing on the Pacific Motorway at northern Gold Coast interchanges [1002].

Some 2½ years down the track, with all this planning, there is not state funding, and I can confirm that there is no state funding in this budget—

... in place to construct any upgrades to these interchanges.

Then they go on to talk about putting in some traffic lights—and these are the things that the people are incensed about—on the overpasses. They got some Black Spot funding from the feds, and instead of using that to go towards fixing the off ramps, they have decided to put more traffic lights on the overpasses. The problem is that the traffic lights on the overpasses just cause more problems, as is evidenced by exit 45.

I read a letter dated 13 June to myself which states, 'The Palaszczuk government acknowledges that ongoing growth in the northern Gold Coast is putting increasing pressure on the interchanges along the M1, including exit 45.' This is the one with the traffic lights on it, and it is important for us to understand that. In 2013 traffic lights were put in place as a temporary measure to resolve issues in the short term. We are now in 2017 and we are into the 2017-18 budget. There is no funding for anything to do with exit 45 or any of those others. The letter further states that the demand activated roundabout metering traffic signals mentioned by my constituent were installed on the eastern side of the interchange in 2013, as I have just said. The letter continues, 'Due to the rapid increase in both residential and industrial traffic using the interchange, the signals are now operating for longer periods, especially during the afternoon peak. For the safety of motorway traffic, priority must be given to motorists exiting the motorway.'

The problem is that we are still ramping onto the M1. We still have B-doubles coming down the M1 at 110 kilometres an hour and coming onto these exits where there are stationary vehicles. People have to pull up to the side of the road at a hell of a rapid pace with a B-double right up their clacker. The letter further states, 'My department is also currently undertaking planning for upgrades of various interchanges on the M1, including exit 45. Numerous options are also being considered to increase the safety of off ramps queueing at these interchanges, including additional M1 off ramps.' Not this term! Not in the next 12 months, because there is not one cracker—not one penny—in this budget for these interchanges.

They are already at dangerous levels and it will be on your shoulders—the Labor government's shoulders—for not putting the money aside. It will be on this minister's shoulders if some tragedy occurs at one of these intersections. I hope to God it does not happen. There is no doubt that the people of the northern Gold Coast have been treated like second-rate citizens in this regard. You have completely and utterly ignored them and issues like buses to get people to train stations, car parks so people can park at train stations and safety issues around the M1. Yes, Minister, you can smile as much as you like, but at the end of the day—yes, that took it off your face yet again—it will be on your shoulders. It will be on Labor's shoulders if some tragedy occurs. Get some money into the pot to fix these exits!

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (12.26 am): It is with great pleasure that I rise in the early hours of this morning to speak about a great Labor budget that delivers on jobs and infrastructure, especially for the people of my electorate of Capalaba. The people of my electorate will see the biggest infrastructure project that they have ever seen in Cross River Rail. What does this mean for the people that I represent in Capalaba? It will mean a 14-minute shorter trip on Cross River Rail and extra capacity, with trains running every six minutes. This will take thousands of cars off Old Cleveland Road and Ricketts Road.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Members in the House, there is far too much talk. Can you please show respect to the member who is on his feet. I call the member for Capalaba.

Mr BROWN: When you couple this with our Fairer Fares policy, this means that a worker who catches the train into the city each day from Thorneside or Birkdale will save over \$880 a year, and that will be frozen in the 2017-18 budget. This is taking cars off our roads and ensuring that we have a world-class public transport system. We cannot wait for the Prime Minister, who is happy to take a hell of a lot of selfies on public transport but refuses to stump up one cent to help with Cross River Rail.

This is also a budget that delivers on jobs, especially in front-line services in my area. In Health, for example, since we have been elected at the Redlands Hospital there are eight extra health professionals, nine extra doctors and a massive extra 40 nurses. I am also pleased about the announcement that the Premier made this morning with regard to teacher aides for prep. It will be fantastic to see a teacher aide in every prep classroom from next year, and I welcome that announcement from the Premier today. We have also delivered with regard to the Alexandra Hills TAFE. Those opposite were going to sell it. They had it on the chopping block, but we have increased the courses, teachers and students, which means that more young people in my area will have an opportunity to get a good public education and careers in the future.

We are also delivering with regard to small business. I welcome the announcement from the minister that the Back to Work program will be delivered in South-East Queensland, particularly in my electorate of Capalaba. That will mean that businesses can apply for grants of up to \$20,000 to help out unemployed youth and to help with their business. I also welcome the reduction in WorkCover premiums for small businesses. The discount in WorkCover premiums will help businesses that take on apprentices and will slash red tape.

I turn now to power. Last week we heard a big announcement by the minister and the Premier with regard to power—an announcement we could make only because we own those assets. We will take Swanbank E out of mothballs. Those opposite were preparing to sell it; we will put it back into action. Since that plan was announced, wholesale electricity prices have dropped by 10 per cent. That means residents of Capalaba will not experience the spikes we saw last summer due to the heatwave. We will be able to manipulate the market, which—

Mr Hart: Manipulate the market?

Mr BROWN: We are going to manipulate the market.

Mr Hart: You are going to manipulate the market?

Mr BROWN: Yes, exactly right, because we own the asset.

Mr Hart: You are going to manipulate the market!

Mr BROWN: I take the interjection from the shadow minister. The shadow minister does not even understand his portfolio. Because we own the assets, we can manipulate the market. The member is being taken to task by a backbencher! We can manipulate the market. The member does not even understand the energy market. We can turn on Swanbank. We can put in more power. We can ensure the price spikes do not occur again, driving down prices for residents in my electorate.

We are also delivering for our local clubs. There is an extra \$10,000 to upgrade the lights at the mighty Capalaba Bulldogs soccer club, which is also used by Oztag and touch football. My old cricket club, Muddies Cricket Club, will get an extra \$50,000 to upgrade their nets. Those nets were initially built by my father, who started the club and is a life member. I faced many a red ball in those nets. I know that they are in desperate need of an upgrade and I am glad that this government can deliver it. We will also put Capalaba greyhound track on the map with Sky facilities. There is an extra \$180,000 to upgrade their facilities not only so they can broadcast on Sky, guaranteeing their financial viability into the future, but also so they can deliver on greyhound welfare with air-conditioned kennels at the club.

In summary, we are investing in Cross River Rail. Those opposite are not. They are investing in new coal-fired power stations which the private sector will not do instead. We are delivering front-line services. Those opposite have already indicated they are not going to backfill. How many teachers will we lose in Capalaba? How many doctors will we lose from Redlands Hospital? How far will we go back because they will not keep up with demand in my local area? We are keeping our assets. We are ensuring those assets can be used for the benefit of the public and the benefit of Capalaba. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr ELMES** (Noosa—LNP) (12.33 am): I rise to speak on the 2017 state budget appropriation bills. The kindest thing that can be said about this budget and this Treasurer is that he does not try to hide the government's deception. In pre-budget interviews, in the budget lock-up and in the promotional blitz he admitted that this is a pre-election budget, that many of the fiscal outcomes contained in the

budget are aspirational and that most of the capital works funding in this budget is directed towards Labor held seats. How can we expect this government to maintain budget accountability when it cannot even keep its own simple promises to the people of Queensland? All of this before we even consider the big promises such as infrastructure, where Labor has failed to deliver \$1.7 billion worth of infrastructure it promised in the 2016-17 budget. If the budget were an episode of the television series *The Apprentice*, the Treasurer would have been fired.

According to this struggling Treasurer, all the blame for Queensland's dire budget situation rests with Cyclone Debbie and the federal government. There is no doubt about where responsibility for Queensland's financial situation rests. It rests across the chamber with those on the government benches who have had more than two years to do something about it. What have they done? They have done nothing except set up commissions of inquiry to make promises about job creation they have not kept. Despite evidence to the contrary from national reports and Bureau of Statistics data, this government tries to maintain the sham that it is improving the lives of Queenslanders. Evidence is that unemployment remains high—above six per cent. Government debt is increasing. Expenditure on roads and other infrastructure is decreasing.

It is not good enough for the Treasurer to claim that costs incurred as a result of Cyclone Debbie are responsible for him not being able to produce a responsible budget. Queensland suffers natural disasters almost every year, and treasurers before this one have been able to manage those things in spite of natural disasters. Nor can we go out and about day after day and say that the government wants to undertake needed infrastructure projects but it cannot because the federal government will not give it the money. The Palaszczuk government is responsible for Queensland. The federal government is not.

The only excuse the Treasurer has not used is that the dog ate his homework. If he had done any homework he would realise that what Queensland needs is less debt so we could have a reduced interest bill, freeing up money for basic services; better targeted infrastructure spread more evenly across the state; greater assistance for small business and agriculture, the areas which produce the jobs the Treasurer is so keen to claim; and a stable and engaged Public Service which provides the services Queensland needs. The Treasurer and his cabinet colleagues refuse to accept any responsibility for the situation they have created through more than two years of inaction and wasteful spending.

In truth, I feel a bit sorry for the Treasurer because I know that this is a budget not of his making. It is not even the Premier's budget. Ownership of this budget rests primarily with the Deputy Premier and her left-wing comrades. The best example of the Deputy Premier's influence over this government is the announcement of full state government funding of the Cross River Rail project. Whatever claims the budget papers may make about the benefits of the project to public transport users in Brisbane, there is only one primary beneficiary of this announcement, and we all know who that is. It is all about saving the Deputy Premier.

There is no money whatsoever for the state's other most significant rail project, the duplication of the rail line to Nambour. This is a much needed piece of infrastructure to cater for the rapidly expanding Sunshine Coast population and to create a more seamless transport linkage between Brisbane and the coast. More and more people are making the daily commute between the two centres. Not only would their lifestyles be enhanced by this project; it is absolutely essential that the project goes ahead. The former LNP government set in motion the wheels to see the project commenced, but that was derailed by the incoming Palaszczuk government.

Earlier this week I heard the Premier describe this budget as a Labor budget. Amazingly, she said that as if it was a good thing. How can it be good to increase government debt, now above \$80 billion, not fund essential infrastructure and raise taxes and charges for essential things like car registration and insurance? In a follow-up comment during the same interview the Premier gave the game away. She said that the budget looked after 'the people we represent'. The people she was referring to are those in Labor held electorates.

The last time I checked the Labor Party had fewer than half the seats in this House, so the best even the Premier can claim about this budget is that it will benefit less than half of the people of Queensland. A real government concerned about current welfare and future prosperity for all Queenslanders would bring in a budget which benefits the whole state. With such a focus on serving Labor held electorates, it is not surprising that this budget ignores the increasing needs of many electorates like my seat of Noosa. It provides little more than ongoing funding for existing services in Noosa with precious little new funding for roads and other infrastructure. I have already mentioned the duplication of the north coast rail line, which is not in my electorate but is essential infrastructure for my constituents.

A stalled infrastructure program which very much affects Noosa constituents is the upgrading of Beckmans Road, which has become gridlocked and dangerous. Beckmans Road is rated as the state's fourth worst road and planning for essential works has been underway for years. This budget provides a small amount—a very, very small amount—of funding for yet more planning, but there is no construction money allocated in the budget out years. Surely the time has come for planning to be finished and some actual work to be done. The Beckmans Road delay is typical of this government which has made an art form of doing nothing but establishing inquiries, reviews, planning studies and anything else which helps it avoid actually having to do something practical. How can we expect any action on Beckmans Road when this budget rips \$63 million out of road funding from the Sunshine Coast region?

The old Noosa TAFE is another example of this action-averse government. The old TAFE buildings are just sitting. They are not doing anything else other than sitting and they are gradually falling into disrepair. The facility was a white elephant from the moment it was built by a previous Labor government, but this Labor administration refuses to acknowledge that mistake and try and make some worthwhile use of the facility. It sits on the government's books as surplus to requirements and sits at Tewantin as an opportunity going begging. The buildings can be brought up to scratch and the facility could be turned into something worthwhile, but it requires the government to act. It sits in a prime environmental area, so it could be used as an environmental centre or as some other use providing it is used to train and create jobs—something the old TAFE never did. All it requires is for the government to act. Instead, if it is left to languish and fall into irreparable ruin, the facility will be lost to the government and as such be lost to the community. That would be another monument to the irresponsibility and stagnation of this Labor government.

This is not a budget; it is a 'fudge it'. Under this government economic growth is weaker, employment growth is struggling and unemployment is forecast to stay higher for longer. This is a budget of promises that the Treasurer knows the government cannot keep but which he hopes will fool enough people for long enough to get the Labor Party re-elected before there is time for the hollowness of this document to show. It is a budget characterised by deception, deferment, distraction and downright trickery. The only thing missing from the Treasurer's speech was for him, as he has done in the past with his magic tricks, to talk about abracadabra. Unfortunately, not even he can conjure up a better future for the people of Queensland out of the paltry ingredients of this budget. I cannot support the bills.

Debate, on motion of Mr Elmes, adjourned.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT



Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (12.43 am): I move—

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Friday, 16 June 2017.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (12.44 am): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Dementia



Mr McARDLE (Caloundra—LNP) (12.44 am:): Tonight I rise to talk about the affliction of dementia, and I want to thank Alzheimer's Australia for the information it has given me with regard to my speech tonight. The word 'dementia' causes fear and is greatly misunderstood. Dementia is a term that is indeed an umbrella term and deals with diseases that decrease a person's ability to think, remember and function in daily activities. In Australia alone today there are over 400,000 people who suffer from dementia and it is the second leading cause of deaths in this nation. In the Sunshine Coast alone today there are over 6,000 sufferers, and that figure will increase to 22,000 sufferers by 2056—an almost fourfold increase. The warning signs for dementia are, on their own, innocuous. They include memory loss, problems with words, confusion about time and place or poor judgement in daily activities. As I said, the word itself is fearful; the disease is worse because the onset can be slow and develop over many years. The signs initially are not obvious. It is only as it increases and takes control of the person that these signs become more and more obvious.

Sadly, there is no definitive test for dementia and a diagnosis is devastating. To see a person who only a few short years ago was fit, active and socially engaged lose that strength of spirit and whose eyes have clouded and dulled is indeed heart wrenching. I suspect there are members in this House who see the impact of dementia in their own family members or indeed in those whom they know. In fact, there are people in this House in time to come who will suffer from dementia or have a close loved one who will suffer from it. Of course it is tragic for the sufferers and equally for their families, but it is the carers who suffer on a daily basis as well as the tragic victim. I met with a group of ladies a number of years ago who were carers. They told me they were isolated and alone. The only time they could get out was with people of their own kind who had to care for their own loved ones day in and day out. These people provided for them a safety net, a local support, a comfort, an ear and, on occasions, a shoulder to cry on. Research in this area has only just begun. We are a long way from understanding dementia, let alone dealing with the consequences. We need to work harder to understand this debilitating illness, to work hard to assist the carers, to work hard to assist the families, because one day it might be us or a loved one who suffers because of it.

North Coast Rail Line; Sunshine Coast University Hospital

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (12.47 am): I rise to speak in praise of our fantastic \$1.8 billion Sunshine Coast University Hospital. Firstly, however, I want to make a small clarification to my previous speech. The LNP committed to the north coast rail line in its election commitments at the last election and this was to be part of forward budgets on winning government. It is a great shame that it has been put on the never-never by the current government.

With regard to the hospital, I am honoured to see this project come to fruition from its early planning stages through to its first sod turning and then its opening. My Sunshine Coast colleagues and I fought passionately for this facility. It is a game-changer for our region. I want to pay tribute to retiring Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service Chief Executive Officer, Kevin Hegarty, who has been at the helm from the start of the project—from its humble beginnings to its final glorious completion. I want to thank Kevin for his outstanding work to improve the delivery of health services on the Sunshine Coast during his 14 years of service. Kevin has always shown complete professionalism, integrity, enthusiasm and passion for getting the job done and he leaves behind a huge legacy, having recently announced his departure from this role. I wish Kevin and his wife, Judy, all the very best for the future.

I got to know our hospital more personally than I had planned a few weeks ago when I had to go there for treatment after an accident where I dislocated my left shoulder. Obviously I would have preferred not to have had the accident—it was pretty painful—but the care was outstanding. I acknowledge and thank Dr Ben Close, Director of Emergency Medicine, and all his team for the wonderful service, excellent care and attention I received. I know so many people go through accident and emergency departments with far worse injuries than I had, but you really do have complete confidence that you are in the best place. You know you are in the best place to receive the best care. Certainly, the new facilities at the hospital only augment that and many fine health professionals have chosen to come to the Sunshine Coast because of this wonderful new facility. We had some great people before, but it is getting even better. I can now even more fully appreciate our wonderful new public hospital, and I am celebrating with Sunshine Coast residents, particularly those who can now receive treatment closer to home rather than having to travel to Brisbane for some of those services. Our new tertiary level hospital will save Sunshine Coast patients 10,000 trips a year to Brisbane for services such as enhanced trauma services and a range of other services.

Oaky North Mine and Aurizon, Workforce Agreements

 **Mr PEARCE** (Mirani—ALP) (12.50 am): It is happening again. Workers are being dumped on yet again in Central Queensland. Mine management for Glencore's Oaky North mine are being aggressive in their discussions with worker representatives. The local workforce agreement is still being discussed. Glencore is the owner/operator of Oaky North mine and the workforce is now in its seventh week of a legal protest against Glencore in its efforts to retain basic rights in a new workplace agreement. Its protest action is allowed under the Fair Work Act. Glencore will not budge on a number of matters, and take a listen to these: limit workers' access to workplace representation; allow the company to unilaterally change rosters against the wishes of employees; pay workers based on profit, not on hours of work; increase the cost of company accommodation for workers; and limit the ability of employees to have some matters determined by arbitration. If that is not wanting to take control of a worker's life, then I do not know what is. What we have is proven hardworking mine site employees being discriminated against by a coal producer which defends its right to reduce wages and conditions and take further control of the lifestyles of the people who want nothing more than to work.

Aurizon is the latest to join the long line of lifestyle terrorists. Some 186 permanent full-time train crew positions are set to be lost in Central Queensland—Townsville 31, Mackay 39, Rockhampton 42, Bluff 29 and Gladstone 55. The closure of the Rockhampton workshops adds a further 180 workers to that list—366 in total. Before they even walk out the gate, this company is already advertising for workers to come in under labour hire to replace those full-time positions. Aurizon has stated that it is moving towards a 70/30 model—30 per cent casualisation/contractor. There is zero evidence that the coal division of Aurizon is slowing, and in fact it is quite to the contrary due to the overwhelming amounts of overtime currently being worked. There is heaps of overtime and people who want to stay in their jobs, yet there are people who are already being signed up to come in as a contractor or under a labour hire company. We have to start fighting back. I call on the people of Queensland to stand up and take notice of what is happening to their families. I call on local members to take on the federal government over this issue.

New Hope Acland Coalmine

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (12.53 am): Today I rise once again to speak of issues that are affecting the town of Oakey in the electorate of Condamine. Once again the residents of Oakey and surrounding areas have been severely impacted by circumstances beyond their control. Members in this place have heard me speak of the protracted battle the residents have been engaged in regarding the water contamination issue that has emanated from the defence base devaluing property prices and the reputation of the town. These residents now have another uncertainty hanging over their heads. I speak specifically of the recent Land Court decision regarding the approval process for stage 3 of the New Hope Acland mine. The Land Court's recommendation that the mining lease for stage 3 of the mine be rejected has caught many in the Oakey community by surprise. The common belief in the community was that stage 3 would be passed but with strict conditions. The reasoning for this train of thought is easy to understand, as New Hope has been mining continuously at Acland since 2001 and had been granted two stages during that time.

The approval process for Acland stage 3 began 10 years ago. After lodging a revised plan, the Coordinator-General granted approval with conditions in December 2014. The federal Minister for the Environment and Energy, the Hon. Josh Frydenberg, commissioned an independent scientific assessment into the project. On the basis of that evidence, the EPBC was approved in January this year.

The project has been the subject of the longest Land Court hearing in the 120-year history of the Land Court, and that decision of the court was that the ML and EA not be approved. Given that the project had Coordinator-General and federal government approvals and some concerns over the Land Court process, I have been informed this afternoon that New Hope have lodged an application for a judicial review of the decision, so this saga is still far from over and I think raises serious issues about the approval and objection process for approvals in this state both for the resource and agriculture sector. This fiasco can never be allowed to be repeated. I have nothing but sympathy for all caught up in the uncertainty that this process has caused.

The water contamination and compensation issue for affected residents at Oakey has still not been resolved. I would urge the defence department to finalise this issue as a matter of the utmost urgency and at least get one of the uncertainties out of the lives of the residents of Oakey. The residents of Oakey have been sorely tested in recent times and they deserve a break.

Caboolture, Sport

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (12.56 am): As noted in the *Not now, not ever* report—

Sport plays an enormous role in the lives of Queenslanders.

...

Organised sport, particularly for boys and men, offers an excellent opportunity to support respectful behaviour both on and off the field. It is an important opportunity to sanction unacceptable behaviour.

...

Just starting the conversations will make significant steps toward changing attitudes and behaviours.

Recently, sporting clubs in the Caboolture region put this part of the *Not now, not ever* report into action. I am very proud that, following conversations that I had with both the Caboolture Snakes Rugby League Club and the Caboolture Sports Football Club, both of these clubs recently hosted events to help shape positive and respectful attitudes and behaviours in our community.

I take this opportunity to commend the Caboolture Snakes Rugby League Club for the program of activities that they hosted during Domestic Violence Awareness Week. The club ensured that all club members participated in an education session and an awareness day. All players and spectators for the Domestic Violence Awareness Game Day were encouraged to take the 'not now, not ever' pledge.

I also commend the Caboolture Sports Football Club, who in collaboration with officers from the Caboolture Police Station, took up the 'not now, not ever' challenge by 'starting the conversation' about respect in sport and how actions can influence your future. I acknowledge the member for Murrumba who emceed that particular event on behalf of the Caboolture Sports Football Club.

The club secured a Queensland government grant to support the delivery of an evening of education sessions for the club's junior players and their coaches and parents. The evening was an incredible success, with more than 300 club members attending, including the club's executive management as well as senior players of the club who are now role models for the younger players.

During the evening, the club launched the #MyChoiceMyFuture project under which the conversation can be continued about relationships, positive attitudes and behaviours and promoting a culture of non-violence. The senior players of the club presented caps to the junior players with the hashtag #MyChoiceMyFuture, as well as wristbands and a message about positive and respectful attitudes and behaviours.

Another part of the club's efforts included the launch of a video which was produced by the club featuring players aged six and up discussing what respect meant to them. I would like to encourage all members of the House and, of course, all Queenslanders to have a look at the YouTube video and search for Caboolture Sports Football Club and #MyChoiceMyFuture. I am very proud that sporting groups in my area are taking up the challenge and standing up for the *Not now, not ever* initiative that this government strongly supports.

Forte, Mr B



Mr WATTS (Toowoomba North—LNP) (12.59 am): I wish to pay tribute tonight to an extraordinary constituent of Toowoomba North who swore an oath to serve and protect the families of Queensland and did so with honour and courage: Senior Constable Brett Forte. I table Commissioner Ian Stewart's valedictory speech so that future generations can know a little more of Brett's distinguished service.

Tabled paper: Document titled 'Queensland Police Service Valedictory: Senior Constable Brett Andrew Forte' and copy of memorial service program [1003].

Brett was the driver of the tactical crime squad lead vehicle and Acting Sergeant Cath Nielsen was the front passenger when Brett's life was tragically cut short on 29 May this year. Sergeant Thomas, the OIC at Helidon, and Senior Constable Ritchie were also first responders, along with Acting Sergeant Hill, Senior Constable Barlow and Constable Poulton of the Gatton station. Brett has been posthumously awarded the Queensland Police Service Valour Award, and I am sure that others in the Police Service and emergency service personnel will have their extraordinary courage and professionalism recognised in the future.

Senior Sergeant Stahlhut, the officer in charge of tactical crime squad, tells me that Brett was dedicated to the TCS, as is partner Cath, who was a founding team member. Brett was on his second 'tour' with the squad. Brett was a motivated, reliable and professional officer who led from the front in the true sense, even on his last day of duty.

Brett's tactical crime squad is a tight-knit squad, vested with fighting against drug crime, property crime and road policing operational activity. The TCS-led team focused on outlaw motorcycle gang crime and compliance upon introduction of the VLAD laws and were pivotal in the dismantling of a chapter of a national club in the Darling Downs district. This team was a finalist in the QPS Awards for Excellence in 2015. Brett's partner, Senior Constable Nielsen, was recently recognised with a highly commended award for Most Outstanding Female Investigator in the Queensland Women in Policing Awards 2017.

This tragedy highlights the dangers all operational police face on a daily basis. I would like to acknowledge on behalf of all Toowoomba and Darling Downs residents all of the police involved, including specialists from the Special Emergency Response Team, the negotiators, PoAir and all emergency service personnel who work so hard to ensure the Queensland community is safe and protected, not just on that day but every day. Whilst in this place, I will do all I can to ensure the police have the laws and equipment that are needed to protect our communities, families and their colleagues, and themselves.

On a personal note, Brett possessed a quick wit and a fantastic sense of humour. He was well liked and highly respected. He was an avid water skier. Brett and his wife, Susie, and their children, family and friends would make the most of every opportunity to get the boat into the water. He was a husband, a dad, a brother and a son. My condolences go to Brett's wife, children and family. With honour he served: Senior Constable Brett Forte.

Dayboro Day

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (1.03 am): The last Sunday in May in my community is always Dayboro Day—the festival when our historic ‘town of yesteryear’ comes alive and showcases the best kind of rural hospitality. This year was particularly special though as Dayboro reached the milestone of turning 150 on Monday, 12 June.

While I am partial to the pineapple pie-eating competition and the waterless raft race, hands down my favourite part of the day is when we recognise the outstanding contribution of Dayboro locals. Chris Green and Deb Dalton are 2017's Business Achievers with their establishment Terah's Restaurant who serve up high-quality eats with country hospitality. It is one of my favourite stops for a sit-down meal in town and I have never had a bad one there.

The Bond name is well regarded in our community, being around almost as long as Dayboro itself. It was my pleasure to award Mackenzie Bond Dayboro's Young Achiever of the year. Mackenzie is an exceptional student with a strong social conscience who speaks out for what she believes in. With a great attitude and disposition, Mackenzie is an asset to the town.

This year two special awards were presented in recognition of outstanding contributions to the Dayboro community—Chresten Reville, one of our local ambos who in 2008 formed the first responders with the late Craig Ferguson and now serves as the trainer-mentor for the group; and Alf Kennedy, who served as Dayboro's local police officer from 1982 to 1986 and from 1982 until recently performed the merry duty of delivering lolly bags to local kids at Christmas, working in with local community groups to spread the festive cheer.

Finally, the 2017 residents of the year were Maria and Mark Hansen, who are long-time members of the Dayboro District Progress Association and, up until very recently, were instrumental in all of the Dayboro Day festivities as coordinators and creators of the Antique and Collectables Fair, which runs alongside Dayboro Day and is located at the showgrounds. The festival is a major event in the town and sees approximately 20,000 visitors during the event. Organising it is no mean feat. I take this opportunity to especially recognise Maria, who had an Order of Australia Medal bestowed upon her on Dayboro's birthday for service to the community. Congratulations, Maria.

Congratulations also to all of the locals who form the team that makes Dayboro Day happen, especially coordinator Laurel Purves, who did an exceptional job and is a delight to work with. In its 150 years, Dayboro has come a long way from its early pioneer days of mainly farmers, timber getters and bullockies. It is a thriving community with a real sense of identity and spirit. It holds a very special place in my heart, as it is the place my husband Reece and I chose to get married. In a Brisbane suburban electorate, you would be hard-pressed to find another community like Dayboro. It is my real honour to represent it every day. Happy birthday, Dayboro!

Great Barrier Reef, Coral Bleaching

 **Mr PYNE** (Cairns—Ind) (1.06 am): This is coral—bleached coral! Be scared. Be afraid. It will not hurt you, but the global warming that killed it will. This bleached coral is the canary in the coalmine. This coral was once part of the Great Barrier Reef, a 10,000-year-old ecosystem, one of the natural wonders of this world. Tens of thousands of men and women who work in the electorates of those who sit in this house, such as the electorates of Barron River, Mulgrave and Cairns, rely on coral for their livelihoods. This coral, that has sustained thriving tourism and fishing industries for decades, in a World Heritage wilderness area that can be seen from space, is dying due to global warming. Thirty per cent of the Great Barrier Reef is dead. This is a national emergency—a climate emergency.

The problem is that those in this House have an ideological, pathological love of coal. There is no word for ‘coalaphilia’ officially but that is the malady that afflicts those in this House. We continue to suffer the impacts of global warming because of their pathological, ideological addiction to coal. Australia has become a pariah and a laughing stock internationally because of the ‘coalaphilia’ of our political elite. We are wasting these precious years of opportunity to mitigate global warming.

Many of those who sit in this House are taking big money from the fossil fuel industry while allowing our brightest hopes to fizzle out in the dark of 19th century technology. I am sick to death of hearing the mantra of 'jobs and growth' repeated ad infinitum in this House. This coal-loving, coral-hating mantra has taken us to the brink of ecological disaster. Unless we stop to question what sort of jobs, what sort of growth, this mantra will destroy the planet we inhabit. The Great Barrier Reef mass bleaching events are symptoms of climate change. Climate change is driven by burning fossil fuels. Supporting new coal at this juncture is tantamount to ecocide.

Today the 'coalaphiliacs' in this House may pander to Gautam, Gina and Twiggy in return for support, but in 10 or 20 years, when their grandchildren ask, 'What did you do to stop global warming?', they will have no answer.

Urban Food Street

 **Mr DICKSON** (Buderim—PHON) (1.08 am): I rise to speak on the issue of the destruction by Sunshine Coast Council of a community project known as Urban Food Street in my electorate of Buderim. Approximately eight years ago a group of local residents in the vicinity of the Buderim Bowls Club, in particular Clitheroe Avenue, got together and decided to turn the grassy footpaths in front of their properties into a community garden. It started after a conversation on the price of limes. They decided to plant citrus trees, other fruit-bearing trees and vegetables which they nurtured and cared for. The result was a wonderful array of fresh fruit and vegetables for the benefit of the community who could help themselves and take what they needed for their families. They left ample room for pedestrian traffic. Regrettably, on the 31 May Sunshine Coast Council contractors moved in without notice and began to cut down a number of trees. All the fruit, along with the trees, went into the mulching machine. It is a disgrace. This goes against everything that Urban Food Street stands for including no food wastage, social cohesion and promotion of a healthy lifestyle.

I have been a strong supporter of Urban Food Street since its inception. I have delivered speeches in parliament and brought many visiting politicians to the streets, including Senator Pauline Hanson. Even the former environment minister, now federal health minister, Greg Hunt, came to Buderim and applauded it. Earlier this year I met with the mayor of the Sunshine Coast and asked him to support this project and to not destroy any produce growing on Urban Food Street. I urged council to make this a showcase for the rest of Queensland to follow. Urban Food Street residents advise that council has bullied them into a very restrictive permit which is free for the moment, but stipulates that they are unable to plant any new produce without council approval and the need to obtain public liability insurance et cetera. I understand that \$20 million of public liability insurance would cost each resident about \$300 per year—a cost to each household that is providing this food to the community for the benefit of the community.

Here is an idea for the visionless at Sunshine Coast Council: why not negotiate and give some reduction in council rates to those particular affected residents to help home owners offset the public liability insurance premium as a goodwill gesture to ensure the Urban Food Street continues on as a worthwhile community project? Residents have managed to turn Urban Food Street into an environmentally sustainable community driven by initiatives without any government interference and should be encouraged by council to continue this mutually acceptable way without any restrictive bureaucracy.

Last week, I was pleased to release the One Nation policy regarding future urban food streets. One Nation will review the public liability coverage for citizens in Queensland and reform the legislation around personal liability, ensure local government covers any public liability on residential verges, ensure safe and reasonable pedestrian access, enact legislation to enable residents to reasonably cultivate public land in front of their residence, if adjoining residents are supportive—

(Time expired)

Gold Coast, Infrastructure

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (1.12 am): I was born on the Gold Coast, and to this day I feel an affinity for that place. It is the sixth-largest city in the state and the largest non-capital city in this country. This budget has been a fantastic budget for the Gold Coast. Finally, after three years of inaction by the previous government, we have seen the upgrade between Varsity Lakes and Mudgeeraba underway—\$18.6 million allocated for a \$180 million project. We also see the planning

locked in for the next section from Tugun to Varsity Lakes—a \$1.6 million allocation for this year, part of a \$5 million allocation in the forwards, after nothing again done by the Newman government on the M1 whatsoever. We are seeing \$14.9 million allocated for the Commonwealth Games roads package.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. I apologise, Minister. One moment. Members, I am tolerant during the adjournment debate. I allowed the member for Toowoomba North to go past his time without interruption so I would ask other members to participate without interjection.

Mr BAILEY: As part of the Commonwealth Games package, six road packages, \$160 million—a great legacy for the Gold Coast road system because of the Palaszczuk government. That includes, of course, the six-laning of Carrara Road at Olsen Avenue with a \$10 million allocation for this year, part of a \$22 million overall allocation, and the Gooding Drive roundabout—\$6.6 million next financial, year part of an \$11.7 million allocation.

We have fantastic huge allocations for rail infrastructure on the Gold Coast as well. The Coomera-Helensvale duplication is getting very close to completion. There is \$23 million this financial year, part of a \$131 million allocation. It should have been done by the previous government and was not. The light rail stage 2, 75 per cent funded by the Palaszczuk government—\$233 million—to get light rail stage 2 connecting up to light rail stage 1 and the heavy rail on the Gold Coast. This is integrated public transport for the Gold Coast all because of the Labor Party and its commitment to infrastructure on the Gold Coast.

We are also seeing a dredging and navigational channel allocation of \$5.5 million despite the totally without fact criticism by the member for Broadwater, and we see the Cross River Rail project funded, a five-minute frequency when completed which will benefit Gold Coast commuters coming to Brisbane with up to a 15-minute time saving. It will be a game-changer for a balanced transport network between Brisbane and the Gold Coast, making sure that we have 8,600 more peak-hour seats on the system.

There is so much happening on the Gold Coast, as the member for Southport said in his commendation of the Labor government. Even the Liberal National Party member for Southport had to admit that a lot is going on on the Gold Coast. That is on top of the history of Labor achievements on the Gold Coast such as the Gold Coast University Hospital, the Titan's stadium, the Sun's stadium, the last M1 significant upgrade, the Southport pool upgrade and the heavy rail at Varsity Lakes.

Mr SPEAKER: Can I clarify that I allow tolerance on time limits for adjournment speeches in relation to someone who has passed away or something of that nature.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 1.15 am (Friday).

ATTENDANCE

Bailey, Barton, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Byrne, Costigan, Cramp, Crandon, Crawford, Cripps, D'Ath, Davis, de Brenni, Dick, Dickson, Donaldson, Elmes, Emerson, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gilbert, Gordon, Grace, Harper, Hart, Hinchliffe, Howard, Janetzki, Jones, Katter, Kelly, King, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lynham, Madden, Mander, McArdle, McEachan, Miles, Millar, Miller, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pearce, Pease, Pegg, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pyne, Rickuss, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Seeney, Simpson, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Trad, Walker, Watts, Weir, Wellington, Whiting, Williams